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RANK AND WORK.

THE British public takes such a domestic interest in everything relating to the Royal Family, that the appointment of Prince Alfred to the *Euryalus* naturally excites a good deal of general observation. But the event itself has the further effect of provoking an inquiry into the present relation between high rank and the public service, some remarks on which may not be thrown away during a period when there is no great political news to employ us otherwise.

It is quite a modern notion that there is anything wonderful in great people's taking a share of the work. The Black Prince would have scouted the idea that he was born to live on the public for nothing. And so far from its being an established thing in old times that a "gentleman" was a man with "nothing to do," there was no class of the community which worked harder. Every title implied a duty, and the soldiering, law-giving, police, &c., of the kingdom was the price paid for the lordship of the land. This tradition still lives in the appointments of lords-lieutenant and sheriffs of counties, and in those of the rural justices, though it has got very threadbare and outworn in some particulars. Let us, therefore, raise no hallelujahs because a Prince of England has joined a profession which will give as much honour to him as he can ever give to it. He is simply doing his duty. Our ancestors would have stared if a Queen's son had done less; and we see no chance for monarchy in Europe generally, if such potentates do not do more.

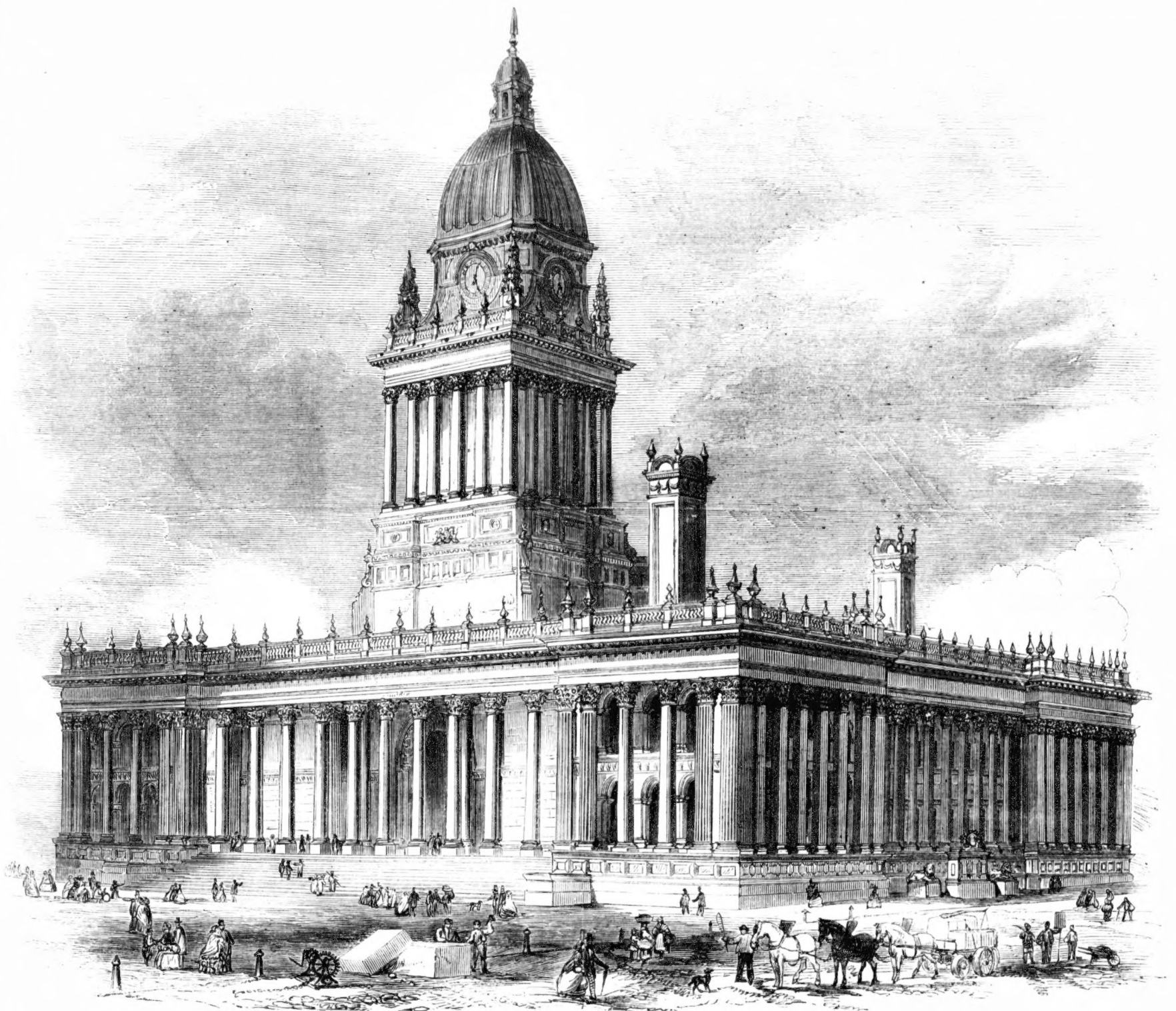
The examination passed by Prince Alfred has evidently been much more severe than that to which "youngsters" (to use the professional term) are usually subjected. He comes of a household which knows the value of culture, and this is one of the advantages of the Germanic element in the British Court. Amidst all the fuss about education now-a-days it is not carried half so far among those classes who can command it, as it ought to be. Few are very accomplished, save those whose accomplishments are to maintain them. It is probable that the standard in the Royal Family is the highest in the kingdom, and this is a good symptom.

We suspect that as regards the "knocking about," which is of even more importance to a young fellow than Greek or Algebra, the Prince will be worse off in our polite age than he would have been in the last one. We doubt if his grand-uncle William of Clarence had a "governor" specially afloat with him, and we say frankly that we think *this* appointment a mistake. Why not take his chance with the ordinary resources of his chosen profession? The navy can breed "officers and gentlemen" without such collateral and unprofessional aids, which will tend to isolate his youthful Highness from his own compeers.

The journalists who talk of rank going for little in a gun-room seem to think that the generation of Benbow is still in the ascendant afloat. They are grievously mistaken, and, indeed, Marryatt and Chamier are but indifferent guides to the *present* service. The long peace has made the navy marvellously like

other social bodies, and, though less idolatrous of rank, it has a full sense of the value of titles, money, and influence. We suspect that the "governor" (like the flapper in Laputa) is really intended to keep the Prince wide-awake—to snobs. But nothing will save him from flattery and attention, unless he happens (as seems really the case) to have superior parts of his own. Captains will take care that he dances with their daughters at Malta and Corfu. Snobbing will cultivate the opportunities of the middle watch. But all this is beyond remedy or precaution; for the present servility of the Briton is strong in proportion to his want of the real genuine belief in the persons worshipped which belonged to his forefathers. All we can hope is, that her Majesty will keep her son pretty constantly at sea. We could not recommend, indeed, that he should be sent to the blockading squadron on the coast of Africa, but a spell of the Pacific or the China seas would be better for him than the Mediterranean, the Tagus, or the Channel.

Nobody can foretell of what advantage it may prove to the country, the Prince's becoming a popular naval officer. We do not grudge him *his* certainty of high promotion, because it will always be rather his interest to back up the mass of the profession, than the Russells, Pagets, Beauclerks, &c. By the time he is old enough for high rank, the country will be sicker than ever of the predominance of such families,—and will require a system of advancement by merit even more than it does now. Nothing can shake his house, if the children of it become competent men and encourage competence in others;



EXTERIOR OF THE TOWN HALL, LEEDS.—(CUTBEAT & BRODRICK, ARCHITECTS.)

though we see frequent attempts to excite the popular jealousy against it, most ungratefully stimulated by families, nine-tenths of whom have risen from the humblest sources through the kindness of her Majesty's ancestors. After all, the Crown is still the most popular institution of the realm; and it may remain so by supplying to the public service men who will not shrink from work, and who will endeavour (above all) to penetrate the real character and tendencies of the age into which they are born. Now, to enter a practical profession is the readiest way to learn the world—and to have taken the first step of life so honourably, is an encouragement to Prince Alfred to deserve every other.

The example will not be thrown away. But, indeed, the institution of primogeniture secures a rush of the younger sons of the higher ranks into the profession; and, as far as the fighting professions go, there is no lack of them. A fair proportion distinguish themselves—as is also the case in Parliament—and hence the lead is on the whole not grudged to them, by those classes in the country which are in a position to dispute it. It is the interest of the people, indeed, that their upper classes should do something. What is objected to, is the well-known Whig system of wholesale rapacity—the efforts of which are to be read at large in the Army and Navy lists, and in the records of the Civil Service. This system had got so far, that under that great friend of liberty, Palmerston, "honourables" were fighting, almost, for tit-waiters-ships. We need not say, that a wholesome love of work was not the inspiration among these gentry. On the contrary, the object was pay with as little work as possible, and everything gave way before "Dowl." We have often remarked that this greedy and shabby abuse of patronage is without parallel in any period of the country's history. Any old list of bishops, chancellors, knights, soldiers or sailors will prove that Napoleon's innovation of "the open career" was in our country a thing of ancient precedent. All the leading Whig families owe their political existence to it—for to talk of the "Normans" and "the sword" as the source of almost anybody's power, now, is to talk like an ignoramus or a fool. The truth is, that the Peerage has become so large and has ramified so widely that there is scarcely room under its spreading branches for anything unconnected with it to grow and live. Nobody quarrels with the advancement of the Napiers and Dandenolds—the Mansfields or the Erskines—or any of those who distinguished themselves in competition with the classes below. But the swarm of nobodies whose names are unknown, and likely to be unknown, in the history of England—yet who sit on appointments far and wide, justly offend the country. To them it is owing, that the "Gazette" sometimes reads like a family history, and that nine-tenths of those who now care about politics are either openly aiming at change or contriving how they can keep their popularity with as little concession as possible.

The great rank of Prince Alfred, and the popularity of the Royal Family, put all suspicion of a wish to seize patronage out of the question in his case. And this is one reason why the appointment is popular. It is a homage to the old idea that power has its duties; and it affords a hope to the country that one member of the Royal Family will by and by take on himself the protection of a great branch of the public service. We may add here—as a deduction from the whole remarks which the event has suggested to us—that those ages in which the rank of a country is fittest to undertake its work are precisely the ages in which the worth and genius of the people are most readily encouraged. It was so in England under Elizabeth, when Essex and Willoughby and Sidney were the contemporaries of Shakespeare and Drake—and in the early years of the last century, when Shrewsbury and Argyle and Balinghame were the coevals of Pope, Swift, and Sir Cloudesley Shovel. In France, before the Revolution, the modern French nobility kept down everybody; and when the troubles came, the only great men of their order helped their enemies to fling them away.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The functions of the Governor-General of Algeria have been suppressed by imperial decree. This is a consequence of the change in the Home Government of Algiers, now erected into a separate department under Prince Napoleon. Marshal Randon is, therefore, no longer Governor-General. He is succeeded in the command of the troops by General M'Mahon, distinguished in Algeria of yore, and conspicuous in the Crimean campaign.

Fourteen operatives, the majority shoemakers, accused of having formed a secret society called the Icarians, were tried before the public court of Bordeaux on the 27th ult. They were found guilty, and sentenced to imprisonment for periods varying from six months to fifteen days.

The Emperor, in returning from Biarritz, will, it is said, pay a short visit to Toulon and Marseilles. The Imperial Prince was not allowed to accompany their Majesties to Biarritz, from a fear that croup was epidemic in the place; but notwithstanding this apprehension, his Imperial Highness was sent for, and despatched with all due state—accompanied by his governor, his physician, the adjutant-general of the Palace of St. Cloud, and escorted by a strong detachment of cavalry.

SPAIN.

Political affairs in Spain are again cloudy, and a change in the Cabinet is already anticipated. O'Donnell is said to lack supporters, and is reproached with inaction. The "Espana" publishes a long article insisting on the necessity of making war on Morocco in order to put down definitively the pirates of the Riff.

The Cortes is dissolved.

AUSTRIA.

The "Vienna Gazette" publishes an Imperial decree for the resumption of cash payments by the National Bank. The exchange of notes for cash will be made successively, according to the different amounts, beginning with the smallest. It will not, however, be until the month of October next year that the present forced currency of bank notes will have entirely ceased.

PRUSSIA.

The King and Queen of Prussia have returned to Berlin. Strict orders were issued that no one should be allowed to enter the station to witness their Majesties' arrival.

According to a letter from Berlin of the 26th ult., the Prince of Prussia will on the 23rd of October take the reins of government in quality of Regent. "This affair is settled in all its political bearings; it only remains to make the necessary financial arrangements."

Orders have been given to the commander of the Prussian frigate *Gefion*, to sail for China and Japan, with a diplomatic agent on board. The duration of the *Gefion's* absence on this special service is estimated at two years.

RUSSIA.

General Rudokimoff, commander of the left wing of the Russian army in the Caucasus, in a letter published at St. Petersburg, states

that Schamyl induced the Circassians to make a last grand effort to drive back the Muscovites. In consequence of this appeal, a determined attack was made by the Mountaineers, and the invaders sustained some loss. The Circassians then took up a strong position, and entrenched themselves; but General Rudokimoff declares that he will drive them from this position.

The Grand Duchess Constantine gave birth to a Prince on the 21st ult. The Emperor of Russia has conferred the title of Imperial Highness on the child, and named him chief of the regiments of grenadiers of Tobolsk.

General Mouravieff, governor of Eastern Siberia, has received the title of "Count of Amur," as a recompense for his services in concluding the treaty with China, which extends the Russian frontier to the river of that name, and grants Russia the free navigation of the river.

The preparatory works for the railway, which, it is hoped in Russia, will be the means of enabling the Crimea to recover from the disasters caused by the war, are in full activity.

ITALY.

Mazzini's journal, the "Italia del Popolo," has ceased to appear, being at length crushed under the weight of repeated condemnations by the Piedmontese courts.

In Lombardy there is no change in the position of affairs. All the conciliatory efforts of the amiable but unfortunate Archduke are impotent to make the least impression on the passive, unflinching resistance of the Lombard aristocracy. It is said that at the "Te Deum" sung in Milan Cathedral, on the occasion of the birth of the new Austrian Prince, none but officers and public functionaries were present.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

There still exists a great political ferment in the Turkish empire, and especially, at this moment, in Syria, where serious consequences are apprehended. At the same time, the experience of the last week goes to show that alarming reports are got up either by stock-jobbers, or to create political capital. It was said that the "French, Greek, Austrian, and American consuls have been massacred at Stanchio (the ancient Cos)"; then we heard that it was only one consul who served several nations, who had been murdered; now the report appears to be altogether unfounded. A rumour that a plot against the Viceroy of Egypt had been discovered, is also believed to be erroneous. Still the bombardment of Jeddah has had its effect upon the whole Mussulman population, whose "fanaticism" is by no means abated thereby, or by the explanation which our ambassador at Constantinople felt bound to make, to the effect, that orders despatched to the *Cypriotes*, rescinding previous hostile orders, had arrived too late.

M. de Thouvenot is coming home from Constantinople *en congé*, and it is rumoured that he will not go out again, but will be succeeded by M. Benedetti.

It is reported that Abdul-Mazis, brother of the Sultan Abdul-Medjid, will shortly visit France. Should that take place, it will be an event without precedent in the annals of the history of Turkey.

The inquiry into the debts of the Imperial household, now instituted by Riza Pacha, has already brought things to light which surpass the most extravagant anticipations. One single Armenian banker is the Sultan's creditor to the amount of £1,600,000 sterling, while the actual value of the articles furnished by him does not amount to more than £100,000 sterling.

The "Agram Gazette" publishes a letter from Dalmatia, which announces that Prince Danilo has issued to his Montenegrins the very trying order, to restore the booty they took from the Turks at the capture of Kolatshin.

AMERICA.

The excitement occasioned in America by the success of the Atlantic telegraph scheme, rapidly declined as soon as it was known how coolly the matter was taken in England; and when communication through the wire ceased, must have been damped out most miserably.

A telegram from New York, states that the French government had granted to the Atlantic Telegraph Company the exclusive right for fifty years to land telegraph cables on the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, which lie between Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. The company, it is said, propose to run a cable from Placentia, Newfoundland, to St. Pierre, and thence to a point near Sydney, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. This arrangement will enable the company to avoid the necessity of keeping in order some 100 or 500 miles of land running across Newfoundland and Cape Breton—a desert inhabited by some few Indians only. The two French islands will thus derive advantages from the Atlantic Telegraph.

The War Department at Washington had received despatches from General Johnston, from Utah, to the 22nd of July, but they contained nothing of general interest. The troops were erecting temporary warehouses, and preparing to go into winter quarters.

THE INDIAN REVOLT.

FULLER despatches from Bombay received on the 3rd ult. come down to the 4th of August.

The rebel fugitives of Gwalior, after plundering Tonk, entered the Boondee territory, closely followed by Colonel Holmes's brigade. Gen. Roberts, with the force from Nusseerabad, was still at Tonk, on the 19th of July.

In Oude there seems to be little change. Sir Hope Grant had marched to relieve Maun Singh, besieged by the Begum, and occupy Fyzabad; in other words, to compel Maun Singh to declare himself.

We now hold the military road between Cawnpore and Lucknow; the route on to Nawabganj beyond the capital; and a strip of country a few miles broad along the north of this line throughout its extent. The force which the Begum was organising at Boondee she is unable to retain, the men deserting in large numbers, leaving their arms behind them. The rebel treasury was exhausted. The rebel force scattered in detachments in Oude is estimated at 60,000 men.

In Behar the rebels continue to give trouble and do mischief. As a military body they are contemptible, but as marauders they are powerful for evil.

A guerilla affair took place near Dehree on the 18th of July. Captain Rattray picked eight men from his Sikh regiment, and despatched them with instructions to bring in or kill Sungram Singh, who had committed several murders and other crimes in the neighbourhood of Rotas. The Sikhs "bettered their instructions," for in addition to fetching Sungram Singh alive into Captain Rattray's tent, they killed his brother, sons, nephews, and grandsons, in all nine persons. The Sikhs had disguised themselves as mutinous sepoys, and thus got into the confidence of the whole gang. Colonel Berkeley had destroyed several mud forts near Allahabad, and cut up a large body of the enemy.

A Bombay journal calculates that Sir Colin may commence the cold weather campaign with 46,000 European and 30,000 Sikh troops in Bengal alone.

The Governor-General was at Allahabad, but, it is said, contemplated a visit to Lucknow. An act had been passed in the Legislative Council, extending the period of the Governor-General's absence in the North-west Provinces for six months longer.

The Jhansi prize treasure has suddenly disappeared. "This treasure, which fell into our hands at the capture of Jhansi, consisted of numerous native ornaments of diamonds, pearls, and other precious stones, and was considered likely to realise £200,000—a sum which ensured to the army of Sir Hugh Rose a tolerable share of prize-money. This treasure was entrusted to Colonel Liddell, of the 3rd Europeans, at Jhansi, and was guarded by soldiers of that corps. In one night the whole of the boxes were rifled of their contents by persons who were enabled, either by the connivance or help of the sentries, to lift from their hinges the doors of the house in which the treasure was kept. A committee of inquiry was held immediately after the loss was ascertained, but as yet the facts connected with this gigantic robbery are unknown. The loss of Sir Hugh Rose alone by the abstraction of so rich a prize is calculated at £25,000."

CHINA.

THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR PEACE.

We are now furnished with details of the negotiations that have taken place between the European Powers and the Court of Peking. The following is the "Times" account of the affair.

On the 10th of June two Chinese Ministers of high rank arrived at Tien-sin. One of these was a Chinaman, the other a Tartar. The Kwei-liang, is described to be about seventy-three years of age, a stout-looking old man, not overbearing in speech or manner, and evidently a "soother of barbarians." The other is described as being our Oliver Cromwell. These people declared themselves to be plenipotentiaries, and upon the faith of this declaration the English and French Ministers consented to meet them. An isolated place on the steppe south of Tien-sin was the appointed rendezvous. It was arranged that Lord Elgin should have his interview first, and then Baron Gros; the Russian was to come third, and the American afterwards. This took place according to the programme. On the 10th of June the thermometer in the sun stood at 137°, Lord Elgin and his suite proceeded to the Hall of Conference. The Chinese were there in a large and ceremonious; and, after tea and compliments, Kwei-liang opened the durbar by saying that his Imperial Master had received Lord Elgin's letter, and had, instead of answering it, deputed his servants to arrange matters speedily. Lord Elgin replied that he was glad to see the Imperial Ministers, adding, that he was prepared to show his credentials publicly, if the Imperial Commissioners would do likewise. The mandarins assenting, Lord Elgin's powers were produced, and a Chinese translation was read aloud by Mr. Wade. There was evidently more surprise than pleasure in the effect produced by the ample terms of the document. It was now Kwei-liang's turn to show the commission, which he and his brother Commissioner were to act. A piece of waxed cloth was first produced by a young mandarin called Kwei-liang received it most reverentially, held it above his head for a moment, then opened it, and took from it a very scrabbling paper, which he handed to Mr. Wade. While Mr. Wade read off in English the contents of this paper, every mandarin was silently watching the expression of Lord Elgin's face, and as that expression grew more and more severe as the reading progressed, exclamations were uttered by Kwei-liang, "Such powers as Lord Elgin possess are unwelcome to China!" "Seals are never attached to commissions in China!" and so on. The effect ran somewhat as follows:—Kwei-liang and Hwa-shan, who were directed to proceed to meet the strangers of England and France, and to inquire into their purpose in ascending the Peiho, did not find them sincerely desirous of putting an end to the war, but the commissioners were to grant them their demands, provided such a course did not infringe the customs of the Celestial Empire, the dignity of the Emperor, or the will of the people; and in the event of the Emperor's being of such character, they were to refer them to the Emperor's pleasure to be made known. When this document had been read aloud, Lord Elgin arose, and ordered his chair to be brought, and Kwei-liang, in a curt manner, that the powers of the Imperial Commissioners were unsatisfactory. The Earl's chair was brought, the guard presented arms, the land played "God save the Queen," the Staff entered their chairs, and the Mandarins were left making speeches to demonstrate that it was quite impossible that they could ever be more powerful than those they had just opened.

Thus ended the first act of this comedy. The next act was of a very similar kind. On the 8th of June it became known that Keying, an old friend of 1842, who deceived Sir Henry Pottinger into a belief that he (Keying) entertained a friendship for all the barbarians, and a private and personal friendship for Sir Henry Pottinger, had become known that this Keying had arrived at Tien-sin. Keying had been degraded on account of the Treaty of Nankin; he was now set down to redeem his credit by confounding the barbarian councils. Poor Keying's tactics were only an imitation of those which he had seen succeeding for a while at Canton. He tried through the Americans to induce the English to move their ships "ever so little way" down the river, promising that upon that he should obtain mastery of the negotiations, and would settle all things. At the same time he ordered the populace to manifest ill-will to the strangers, and, as at Canton, so at Tien-sin, quiet Europeans were insulted and stoned. But Lord Elgin and Sir Michael Seymour were equal to the occasion. Captain Sherard Osborne, with his galley's crew, scaled the great gate of Tien-sin, kicked the Tartar post before them, and let in 100 marines who were in march upon the city. This force marched through the city with a band and a couple of howitzers, administered a good fright to delinquent householders who had encouraged the mob, and quieted Tien-sin for the rest of the English occupation. Keying's industry was not confined to this imitation of the great Yeh and his successor Hwang. He entered into strict relations with the Americans and the Russians; and, in fact, Keying was becoming embarrassing. Fortunately, however, Mr. Wade had found among Yeh's papers a report from Keying to his master, urging him to make no account of the treaty of Nankin, and describing it as a mere snare to delude the barbarians. The next move in this plot and counterplot was to send Mr. Wade and Mr. Lay to the two Chinese Ministers to read this document in their presence, and to declare that Lord Elgin and Baron Gros could hold no communion with a man who had officially put forth these disgraceful counsels. This coup was decisive. The two Commissioners, who had their own reasons for hating their new colleague, communicated this intelligence to Peking, where the terror was great enough to induce the Emperor to recall Keying to Peking, and to authorise his Commissioners to sign a letter promising a treaty in the terms of Lord Elgin's demands, and couched in language dictated by Mr. Lay.

This letter is not now, we hope, the most important document ever signed in China, for its importance has been superseded by the Treaty. We believe it will be found that the conditions which this letter promises as the basis of a treaty are as follow:—

"The residence of a British Minister at Tien-sin, with access to court, and direct communication with the ministers. An official yamen for him during his visits to Peking. All official documents to be written by him in the English language (to be accompanied by Chinese translations until the Court of Peking has procured interpreters). An English college similar to that kept up by Russia to be allowed at Peking.

"China to be opened to all the world; persons to go whither they please and do what they please under a passport system.

"The Yang-tze to be opened to commerce from its mouth to its source.

"Christianity to be tolerated.

"Indemnity for the war and losses at Canton to be paid for by the two Quangs, the amount to be agreed on by special Commissioners at Canton. The tariff to be corrected, the Custom-house system revised, and the English to aid the Chinese in the suppression of piracy.

"In proof of the friendship and goodwill of the Emperor of China towards the Queen of England, a special embassy shall be sent to England later with."

If we are justified in our confidence that these are the terms of the Treaty which was signed at Tien-sin on the 28th of June, seventeen days after the signature of the letter, Lord Elgin has fulfilled all our desires and has surpassed all our expectations.

DANGER AT CANTON.

Canton and its neighbourhood seem to be in a most unsettled state. Mr. Consul Winchester had notified to the mercantile public that the new Chinese Commissioner, Yeh's successor, had issued a proclamation, which, if not an express declaration of war, is a warlike manifesto; that the merchants should secure themselves against treacherous attacks; and that the naval and military men must look to their defensive organisation. Hwang, the Commissioner, had expressed his approval of the proceedings of the braves, and his desire that the allies should evacuate Canton. The merchants were requested not to delay preparations for a sudden departure, as it was evident that the allies are in a state of war with the Chinese. The blockade of the river had been partially resumed. Ships were shot; trade languished; the people were in a hostility; heads were in increased demand; assassinations were common; and heavy punishment was inflicted upon the neighbourhood wherever these murders occurred.

There are several entrances to the building on each side, and at the north end; but the principal entrance is under the south portico, and consists of a large archway, 32 feet high by 21 feet wide. The lower part contains three doors, composed of highly ornamented wrought and cast iron work, glazed. The tympanum or crown of the arch has been filled in with an emblematic group of figures, and the panels are elaborately carved. The group placed immediately over the three doors leading to the vestibule represents Leeds, in its commercial and industrial character, fostering and encouraging the Arts and Sciences. The panels forming the architrave to the arch and spanning the group are tastefully carved with various devices, selected from the arms of the town, with scroll ornaments, &c. The centre panel contains the scales of justice, surrounded with palm

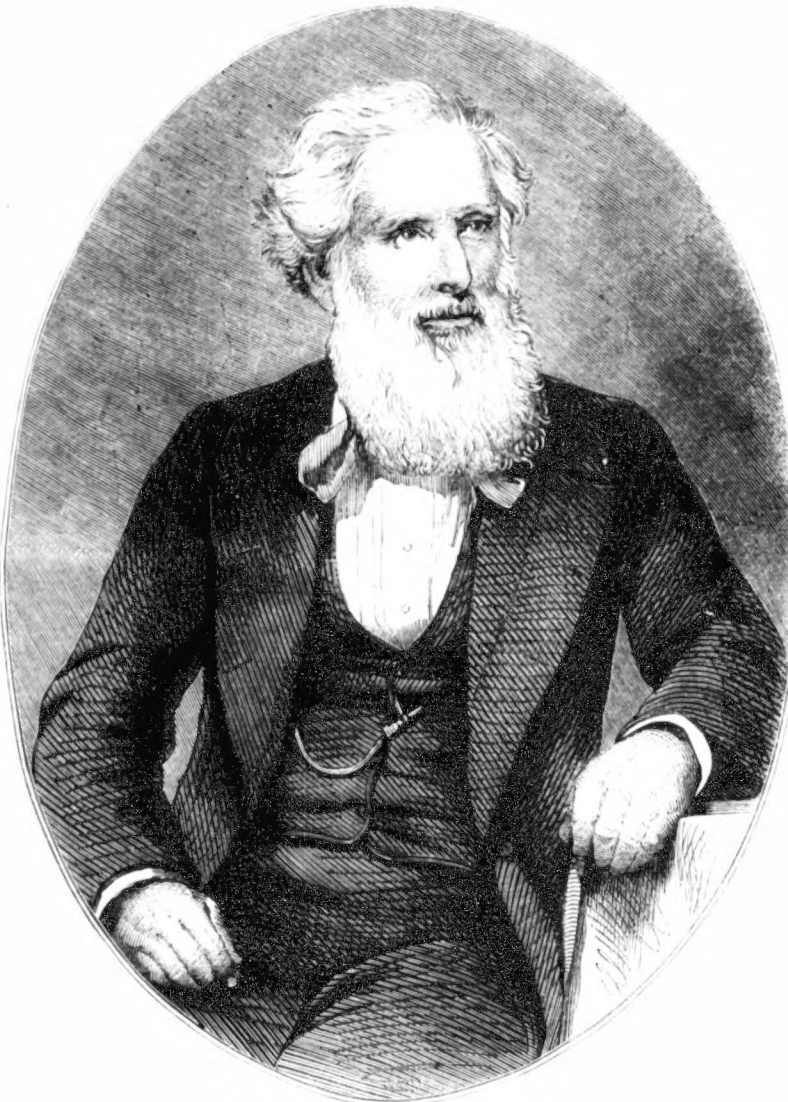
branches. The large panels on each side of the entrance doorways are filled in with bold and classic scrolls and foliage, in the centre of each of which is a child bearing the fleece, having beneath the fasces and other emblems of Power and Justice, and above the caduceus of Mercury.

The interior of the building is characterised by almost unequalled adaptation to the various municipal and judicial purposes it is intended to serve; besides which, it is in several important portions marked by ornamentation of high excellence. The principal entrance opens into a vestibule of very fine proportions, with a domed ceiling, supported by four arches and fluted pilasters of the composite order, the apartment being 70 feet high and 48 feet long by 45 feet wide. It is separated from the large hall by a glass screen. In the centre of the vestibule stands the colossal statue, in white marble, of Queen Victoria.

The Great Hall is entered from the vestibule, and it is one of the noblest public rooms in the country. Its dimensions are 161 feet long by 72 feet wide and 75 feet high, giving, as will be seen from the following table, a greater area than that of almost any other provincial hall:—

	Feet long.	Feet wide.	Feet high.
Westminster Hall	228	66	92
Liverpool St. George's Hall	169	71	75
Leeds Town Hall	161	72	75
Bradford St. George's Hall	152	75	34
Birmingham Town Hall	115	65	65
Durham Castle	180	50	36
Liverpool Concert Hall	135	102	68
London Guildhall	153	50	56
London Exeter Hall	130	72	68
London Euston Square Station Hall	125	61	60

With the exception of a small balcony over the entrance at the south end, the room is without galleries, and the general effect is considerably enhanced by the uninterrupted view thus obtained of the entire hall. It is enriched with ornament in relief and in colour in an almost lavish manner. The sides of the hall are divided into five bays by composite Corinthian columns and pilasters in imitation of Rosso-Antico, with gilt bronze capitals and bases, standing upon a surbase inlaid with rare specimens of marbles. The inter-columns (or wall spaces between the columns) are of a pale green colour, bordered with a rich fret ornamental margin. The columns and pilasters support an enriched entablature, which, like the surbase, also runs entirely round the hall. From this entablature springs the fine circular ceiling, which is divided into five bays, corresponding with the columns, each bay being subdivided into five compound panels, highly ornamented with foliage, in relief and coloured. The hall is lighted by 10 semi-circular windows immediately above the entablature, and at the springing of the ceiling. Projecting from the keystones are rams' heads, from which are suspended 10 superb cut-glass chandeliers. The north end is formed by a huge semi-circular alcove, in which stand the orchestra and the organ—one of the finest



SIR P. FAIRBAIRN, MAYOR OF LEEDS.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY MR. BRAITHWAITE, OF LEEDS.)

and most elaborate of its kind in England. In the second recess of the large hall on the right, entering, is the statue of the late Mr. Edward Baines. It is in statuary marble and of colossal size.

On the west side of the hall are two large refreshment-rooms, and on the opposite side ante and cloak-rooms, communicating with the side or carriage entrance of the hall.

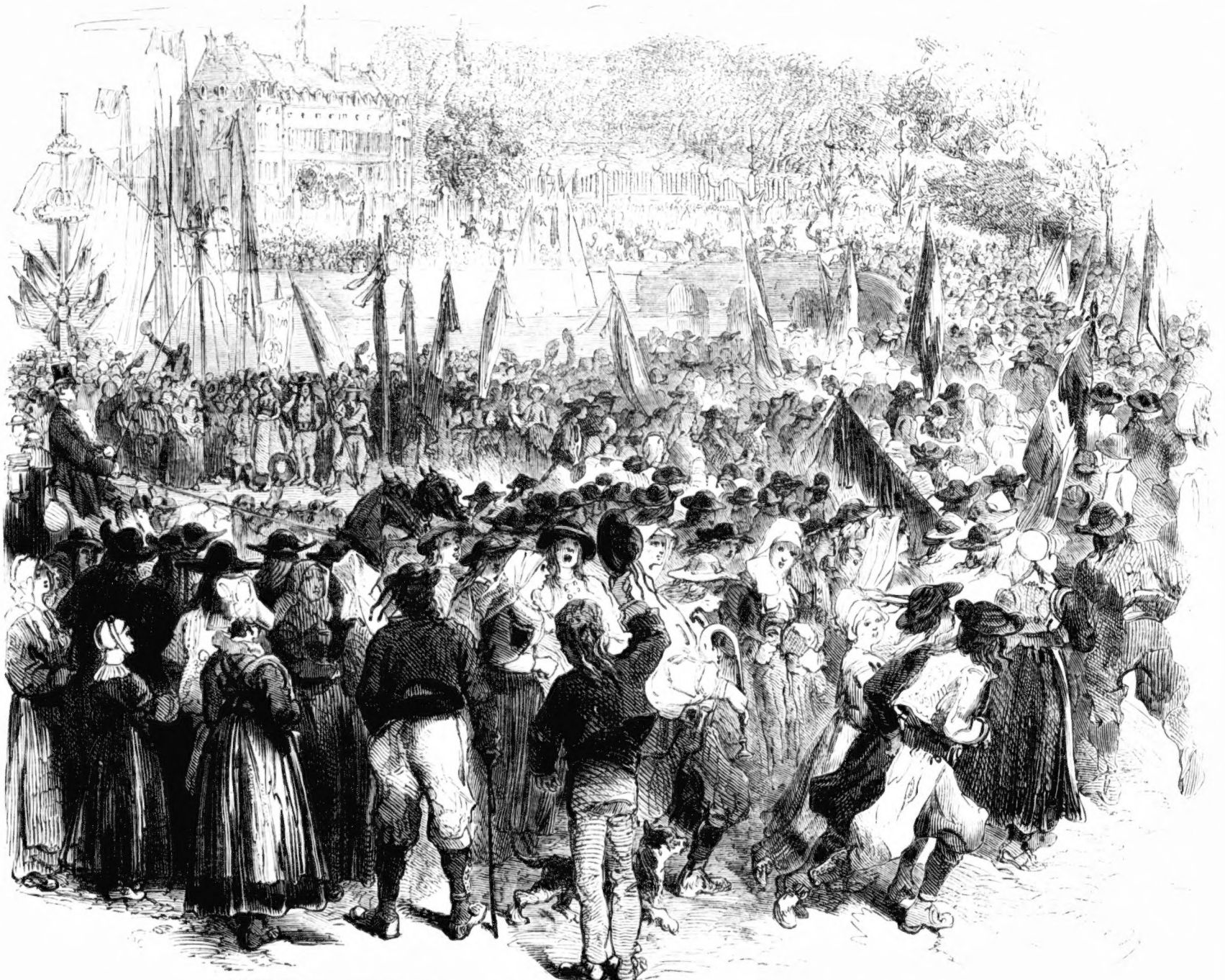
Returning to the vestibule, and taking the corridor to the left on leaving the large hall, we come to the Council Chamber, which is 50 feet by 40 feet, and 40 feet in height. It is lighted in the daytime by a coloured glass skylight, and at night by four gas chandeliers. The room is highly ornamented, but the coloured decorations have for the present been left out, there not being time to complete them before the inauguration.

Continuing on the east corridor, we pass several large and lofty rooms, appropriated for the offices of the borough surveyor and other officials, after which we come to the Nisi Prius Court, a lofty and well-ventilated apartment, 50 feet by 45 feet. Attached to it are several rooms for witnesses, counsellors, and other persons. At the opposite side or corner of the building, and connected with this court by a large vestibule, is the Crown Court, of the same size, and precisely similar in its arrangements and enrichment to the Civil Court. The fittings of this court have been completed. It is connected with the prison on the basement, by a stone staircase from the dock. There are immediately contiguous many large and commodious rooms intended for the use of officials.

Leaving this and continuing the route along the west corridor, we come to the Borough Court, which is 50 feet by 40 feet, and 40 feet in height. Like the Council Chamber, it is lighted by a large skylight in the centre. The fittings in this court have also been completed. It has a communication with the police establishment in the basement by means of an iron staircase from the dock. Adjoining, and in some instances communicating with it, are several rooms for the magistrates, their clerk, the chief of police, &c. Returning to the door by which we entered, and taking the corridor to the right, we have immediately before us the south vestibule, the corridors and the vestibules thus completing the entire circuit of the building, the large hall being in the centre. They are well lighted by the several windows opening upon them, and are fitted with gas pendants for nights.

At each corner of the corridors there is a handsome staircase leading to the first floor, which is planned on precisely the same arrangement as the ground floor, the courts alone being excepted. The rooms in the centre part of the east front on this floor are appropriated as reception rooms for the mayor, and are connected with folding doors, so that if requisite a hundred guests can with comfort sit down to dine at one time.

The cost of the whole building has been within £190,000.



RECEPTION OF THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS OF THE FRENCH AT QUIMPER.—(FROM A SKETCH BY M. MOULIN.)

BRITON PEASANTS ESCORTING THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS OF THE FRENCH FROM DAOULS TO FAYU.



THE EMPEROR'S PROGRESS.

It has been remarked that the tour of the Emperor and Empress through the western provinces of France marvellously developed the loyalty of the inhabitants—above all, of the people of Brittany.

At Quimper, a small seaport town about thirty-two miles from Brest, there was a remarkable demonstration. The whole population, upwards of 10,000, left their homes in holiday attire to meet the Emperor on his approach to the town, which itself was gaily decorated with banners, garlands, and triumphal arches. The authorities sallied forth to swell the Emperor's escort, which consisted of farmers, country gentlemen, priests, village schoolmasters, and the village mayors, who swelled the imperial cavalcade as it advanced until it became an immense crowd, galloping helter-skelter before, behind, and at the side of the imperial carriage. They afforded much amusement to the Emperor, who every now and then bowed and smiled graciously at the many quaint sayings, and equally quaint compliments, addressed to her.

As their Majesties entered the town of Quimper, the bells from the different churches broke forth in merry peals; salvos of artillery were fired, and military bands stationed on the line of procession, commenced playing the popular airs of Brittany. The town presented the appearance of a great festival, everybody seemed lost in excitement; and no one appeared more impressed than the Emperor, who seemed deeply to feel the enthusiasm of the people. He promised the mayor that he would seriously consider the project of improving the harbour, and that he would give instructions for various improvements, of which he thought the town stood in need. While conversing with the mayor, the Emperor noticed a group of aged and mutilated men, who wore on their breasts the St. Helena medal. His Majesty, who knows so well how to impress the French people, left his carriage, approached, and conversed with the old veterans, one of whom wore a decoration that seemed to puzzle the Emperor, who asked its meaning. It was a twenty franc piece, hanging from a gold cord. It was given by the great Napoleon to the bearer, a seaman on board the *Saule*, the ship in which the fallen Emperor was advised to sail from the shores of France, and thus evade the captivity which awaited him. This man had expressed great devotion to the Emperor, who, when he had determined to go on board the *Bellerophon*, summoned this man to his cabin, and tendered him a handful of gold. The man, however, declined it, but requested that the Emperor would give him one of the pieces that he might wear it as a medal. The anecdote, as related by the old veteran, seemed greatly to touch the Emperor, down whose cheek a tear was seen to roll as he shook the old man by the hand, and pinned on his coat a cross taken from among the numerous orders he himself wore. There was a breathless silence among the people during this interview, but when the Emperor again entered his carriage every voice seemed to join in the shout of "Vive l'Empereur!"

Our illustrations are from sketches by M. Moullin, who accompanied his Majesty throughout the journey.

THE BOMBARDMENT OF JEDDAH.

The full particulars of this affair have arrived. The *Cyclops* reached Jeddah on the morning of the 23rd of July, and anchored at the entrance of the port. The festivities of the Kourban Bairam were at their height; the town wore a holiday appearance, and the shipping was decked out with gay flags.

It was soon ascertained that Naamik Pacha was at Mecca, and a letter was at once despatched to the Kaimakan for transmission to the Pacha, informing him that Captain Pullen had come to the place to demand the immediate punishment of the authors of the late massacre. Forty hours' time was allowed for compliance with this demand. Meanwhile, a strict blockade was enforced, in which the *Cyclops* was assisted by the *Lady Canning*, East India Company's steamer. The two vessels took up their position at a distance of about a mile and a half, whence their guns could sweep the two channels leading into the inner harbour.

On the morning of the 25th the time had expired, and hostilities were forthwith commenced. A few rounds of shot and shell were fired into the town. When day broke, they were found to have had the effect of driving almost all the inhabitants to seek refuge beyond the walls. The bombardment was resumed at intervals during the course of the day, and was continued in like manner on the 26th. About 100 to 150 solid shot, shells, and rockets were thrown into the place, and of the latter a few were fired from the boats of the *Cyclops* during the night. It was afterwards ascertained that their appearance had struck intense terror into the minds of the people on shore. The women, as the fearful missiles came hissing through the darkness in a train of fire, shrieked aloud, and the men slunk away in an agony of fear. The town was very little damaged, and the loss of life is not known to amount to more than ten or twelve. During the whole of this time the forts continued perfectly silent, and never once attempted to offer the slightest opposition.

On the afternoon of the 26th a secretary of the Pacha's arrived from Mecca, and implored Captain Pullen to desist, declaring that the murderers, sixteen in number, were in confinement; that their punishment could not be carried into execution until approval of the sentence was received from Constantinople. Captain Pullen continued firm in his demands; but the landing of troops from Suex, and afterwards of Ismail Pacha, with 450 troops, afforded the town some intervals of respite. At length a letter came from Naamik Pacha, stating that he had received a firman conferring upon him the necessary powers, that he was consequently prepared to satisfy to their fullest extent the demands made upon him, and that it only remained for Captain Pullen to point out the spot upon which the execution of the criminals should take place. Sixteen men had been condemned by the Turkish courts, but one had died in prison, and against four of the others the evidence was declared insufficient. The remaining eleven were to suffer death.

The spot selected was in full view of the town. On the 5th, a force, composed of the marines of the *Cyclops* and of part of the crew, all fully armed and with fixed bayonets, were landed and drawn up upon the ground; the prisoners soon after arrived, escorted by a strong body of Turkish and Egyptian troops. Decapitation was the mode of death that had been decided upon. Most of the men met their fate with the utmost fortitude; some, indeed, maintaining an air of defiant exultation to the very last.

The energetic handling of Jeddah is now regarded as rather an "untoward event." The remonstrance, which is supposed to have emanated from the French Government, has been the occasion for publishing something like an explanation—that Captain Pullen acted so promptly upon early orders, that the deed was done before other and later orders reached him.

SHARP!—A workman named Cyprien, residing at St. Etienne, was a short time since condemned by the Tribunal of Correctional Police of that place to three months' imprisonment for having made use of expressions hostile to the Emperor, and for having said, "The Italians failed in their attack, but I will not." The Procureur Imperial appealed against this sentence, and the Imperial Court has increased the imprisonment to six months.

WHAT THEY ARE DOING AT METZ.—Metz (says the "Liverpool Albion") is the strongest fortress in France. It is an out-of-the-way place, thirty miles off the main Strasbourg line, and very little visited by those not having actual business there, being exclusively a military town. Well, here in this secluded spot—here, in Metz, which already contains arms, all of the very last make, in the very highest state of finish and readiness, for a quarter of a million of men, with mountains of shell of every size, countless glittering brass mortars, quite new, numberless new brass cannon of the Emperor's invention, for throwing small hollow balls, projectiles of every conceivable kind—here men are casting cannon. Minié bullets, in matrices twelve at a time as fast as if another Congress were sitting at Vienna, and that an infuriated Continent were about to submerge France in fire once more, and that this was her final preparation for the death struggle. What is it for? Metz, be it observed, is only one of several fortresses of the same rank; and though called the Woolwich of France, there are several other Woolwiches too—Vincennes, La Fère, Toulon, Strasbourg, Besançon, Toul, Orléans, Rennes, and a dozen lesser ones, in each and all of which the same sort of thing is going on, hammer and tong, night, noon, and morning.

THE WILL OF THE DUCHESS OF ORLEANS.

THE will of the Duchess of Orleans has been made public, through the necessity of having it proved at Doctors' Commons. It is a remarkable document. The grave tenderness of her language whenever the duchess alludes to her husband or her sons is very affecting; and the whole document will certainly increase the admiration already felt for the unfortunate princess. It begins:—

"This is my will. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. In dying I commend my soul to God, and in the name of Jesus Christ I implore His infinite mercy, praying Him to receive me in the eternal abode, there to reunite me to those for whom I have mourned upon this earth. I leave my maternal blessing to my beloved sons, and pray the Lord to guide them through this life, to give them prosperous days, and to grant them eternal felicity when they shall have nobly fulfilled their destinies here below. I bid them here a last adieu, whilst thanking them for the happiness they have contributed to my existence. I entrust the Queen to accept the last expression of my respectful gratitude. I bid farewell to my mother, to whom I owe so much; to my brothers and sisters, for whom I have ever felt sincere affection; to my mother's family, whose tender hospitality has lightened the bitterness of exile of my sons and myself; to my friends and servants, whose fidelity in the midst of misfortune has inspired me with grateful attachment; and, finally, I bid farewell to France, which I have loved so much, and where the happiest years of my life have glided away. I recommend my sons never to forget that the fear of God is the beginning of all wisdom, that it is a guide and beacon in prosperity, and a stay amidst misfortune; to remain ever faithful to the precepts of their childhood, and continue steadfast likewise in their political faith. May they observe it both by their constancy in adversity and exile, and by their firmness and devoted patriotism when the course of events shall restore them to their country. May France, restored to her dignity and liberty, may constitutional France, reckon upon them to defend her honour, her grandeur, and her interests, and may she find once more in them the wisdom of their grandfather and the chivalrous qualities of their father. They should ever bear in mind the political principles which have made the glory of their house, which their grandfather faithfully observed upon the throne, and which their father, as his will and testament bears witness, had religiously adopted. His last directions have been the guiding rule of their education. In quitting this world I recommend my children to the Queen. My beloved son, the Count de Paris, will attain his majority the moment my will shall take effect; yet, notwithstanding this, I count upon the moral influence of the Queen and upon her respected authority to replace me in his councils; I likewise reckon upon her maternal solicitude in intrusting her to accept the guardianship of my beloved son, the Duke de Chartres. Such duty will not, I trust, appear to her too onerous, for I beg my brothers to assist the Queen in the administration of the fortune of their nephews. I know full well the feelings which animate them for the children of their deposed brother, and I am sure that they will at all times testify towards them a sincere affection. I charge my sons to remain ever closely united; the indissoluble union of the two brothers forming the condition of their strength and mutual happiness. I desire that my eldest son shall, from the day that his legal majority permits him, take part in the family council appointed to watch over the interests of his younger brother. It is also my desire that those tried and faithful friends who have surrounded my sons, and who, after having been the devoted adherents of their father, have never ceased to give us proofs of attachment in adversity, will still continue to remain about them."

Coming to the business of the will—her property, the duchess says:—
"It is my express will that my property, the securities of which it is composed, everything which might and should legally revert to me, and, indeed, all that I am at liberty to dispose of, shall be equally divided between my two children. With this intention I likewise divide between them, as equitably as possible, the following articles in my possession, leaving, to wit, to the Count de Paris, my pearl necklace in four rows, which he will, I trust, one day give to the Countess de Paris; the six diamond pendants with chain; the red album, containing the fine collection of water colours by French artists, which belonged to the Duke d'Orléans; all my furs, and Schœffer's picture of 'The Holy Women' ('les Saintes Femmes'). To the Duke de Chartres, my set of pearls, composed of brooches, pins, earrings, bracelets, and a diadem. This set came to me from his godmother, my aunt Adelaide; my ruby bracelet, bequeathed by the Queen of the Belgians; two ruby buttons, the sapphire ring and the ruby ring, my fine cup in lapis, the Prayer-book which was made by his father's order, the nécessaire d'armes, and my lace. I hope that these jewels and lace may be worn by a Duchess de Chartres. Besides the foregoing articles, I bequeath as souvenirs to the Count de Paris, the large portrait of his father, by Ingres; the marble bust of his father, by Talbot; the large picture of 'The Iron Gates,' by Dauzats; the small picture of the 'Col de Tenish,' by Philippeaux; all his father's manuscripts, papers, letters, small notebooks, as well as his father's letters addressed to myself. I know that he will always look upon these papers as a precious treasure, and I believe that he will one day be enabled to use them with discrimination, so as to make known the character of him whom France has mourned without even being aware of all his merit. I leave him the portraits of my two mothers; the water-colour, by Winterhalter, representing the Queen with the children of the Duke de Nemours; the oil portrait of the Duke de Chartres, by Winterhalter; the fine poniard ordered by my sister-in-law, the Duchess of Wurtemberg, for the Duke d'Orléans; two of the albums, containing his father's drawings; the Psyche, which was presented to me by the city of Paris on occasion of my marriage; the equestrian statuette, in bronze, of his father, upon a pedestal of black marble; the large pendule of Bréguet, which struck the hour of his birth, as well as the chimney ornaments belonging to it; the enamelled box containing his father's watch and several other souvenirs; the case containing the seal and silver gilt knives, which I always use; one half the fine engravings of his father's portrait, by Ingres; the small water-colour of the Duke d'Orléans on horseback, copied from H. Vernet; one of my four beautiful fans; my marriage fan, in filagree, which has been used also by the Queen; his coral, which all the Queen's children have likewise used; my bracelet, containing a portrait of his father, intended for his wife; my carved praying desk, containing his father's mask; my papers, letters, small books of souvenirs, which I have left in England; his father's sword, which he wore on the day of his death, and the palm which was presented to him by his division on his return from the Iron Gates. I bequeath as souvenirs to the Duke de Chartres the equestrian portrait of the Duke d'Orléans, by De Dreum; the small portrait of his father, by Ingres; the large picture of the 'Col de Tenish,' by H. Vernet; the head, in marble, of his father, copied from the Mausoleum of Triquetty; the water-colour of the Queen by Winterhalter; my portrait, by Henriquel Dupont; the furniture of my desk (inkstand, penholder and blotting book in silver-gilt); the miniature of his godmother; my small watch; the 'cornet,' in tortoise-shell and gold, adorned with family portraits; one of my four beautiful pointed fans; the bracelet, adorned with his portrait and that of his father, intended for the Duchess de Chartres; the water-colour of Eugene Lamy, representing the Review of the Chasseurs d'Orléans at the Tuileries, 1840; the large portrait of the Count de Paris when an infant, by Winterhalter; two of the albums, containing drawings of the Duke d'Orléans; the other half of the engravings of the portrait of his father, by Ingres; the triumphal arch of Djimilah, by Dauzats; my Alexandre organ; my marriage corbeille; and an equestrian statue, in bronze, of his father, with the two bronze vases which accompany it. I have set down upon a special list the souvenirs which I beg my family and friends to accept as a last token of affection, and I desire my sons to divide between themselves the remainder of the articles I may leave, such as albums, bronzes, books, furniture, and express in codicils. I entrust them to continue to Monsieur de Boisjillion, the faithful friend of their father, of themselves, and me, as well as to Monsieur Asseline, who for so many years has shown us such deep attachment, the annual sums of 4,000 francs each; to Madame de Bontems, my former governess, the annual sum of 1,000 francs; to Monsieur Kennecke, my tutor, the annual sum of 1,000 francs; to Madame Gassier, the annual sum of 1,500 francs; to Mademoiselle Tuerow, my former femme de chambre, the annual sum of 1,000 francs; and to Hoidet and Escevoy, the two valets de chambre of the Duke d'Orléans, the annual sums of 1,500 francs for the former, and 1,000 francs for the latter. Having at heart the prosperity of our house, it is my will that, in case, through improbable, but possible misfortunes—namely, that my two sons should, by dying before me, without leaving direct heirs, render me the proprietress of a portion of their property—the estate which I may leave shall be divided among the princes of the House of Orleans, and in their default, among the princes their sons. In such event the wishes I have above imparted to my sons would, as regards their relations, become obligatory charges, together with the desires I may subsequently express in codicils. I beg Mr. Frémyn, son, my attorney, to accept the duty which I confide to him in the appointment of my executor, and I hope he will recognise in this proof of my gratitude for his enlightened counsel. I desire my sons to present to Mr. Frémyn, son, from me, a diamond ring of the value of 3,000 francs. Whatever the days of exile where my days may close, and whatever the tomb I may happen to find, I request my sons, and in their default, my heirs, to have my remains conveyed to France whenever our family may return to it, there to deposit them in the mortuary chapel of Dreux, beside the tomb of my husband. I here close my last will with an assurance of pardon to all such as may have offended or afflicted me, and with an entreaty to all those I may in my turn have offended or pained, not to retain the memory thereof. My last words are for my beloved sons—a prayer and a blessing.

"Eisenach, Jan. 1, 1855."

"HELENE, DUCHESS OF ORLEANS."

THE GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

COLONEL MOODY, Royal Engineers; Captain J. M. Grant, 11th R. Lancers; Lieutenant A. R. Lemire, and Lieutenant H. Palmer, Mr. Siddell, staff assistant-surgeon, and several other officers, with a detachment of 200 men, including 100 soldiers, 100 British Columbia, sailing round Cape Horn. The detachment consisted of picked volunteers, and embraced almost every trade, profession, surveyors, draughtsmen, engravers, artists, architects, carpenters, masons, blacksmiths, painters, millers, and as only the Royal Engineers can produce. They are armed with Lancaster rifle and Colt's revolvers, and take out with them sufficient to last for some months, and an immense quantity of clothing and materials of every description likely to be required on an expedition in the new colony. We understand that steam engines, railway rails, and other mechanical appliances, either for land or water power, will be sent after the party. The men come as officers and men are to receive a very liberal rate of colonial pay, as a further inducement to them, after six years' faithful service a grant of land is to be appropriated to such as are desirous to settle in the colony.

AUSTRALIAN AFFAIRS.

REFLECTING to the assertions of a French journal, that although our failures by land and sea, the colonisation of Australia had been especially unsuccessful, the "Times" thus summarises the news of Australia by the last mail:—

"In the first place, the revenues of the Colony of Victoria are in a satisfactory state, the increase on the year ending the 31st of June being no less than £968,000, out of a revenue amounting altogether to £1,375,000, being less than £1,500,000, not a bad money, one would think, for a colony which has only just attained the twenty-first year of its existence. It has been observed that this amount of not only does not now cost, but that, however, the mother country, the Army troops which are sent for its defence being paid for, like those of the East India Company, out of colonial funds. The next point to which every attention is directed is the report of a new bank for the colonists, who are not unreasonably anxious to get this branch of business into their own hands. It is a trust in the hands of some English companies, by which it has hitherto been almost monopolised. The next melancholy indication of the declining state of the colony during the last six months, which amounts to £1,277,000, and which is still more in line, shows an almost progressive increase in the month. Then, again, there is the further fact that capital and the employment and division of labour are beginning to be applied in earnest to the production of gold, and that lands believed to have been exhausted by the searches of single diggers are being worked at a profit by the quartz-mining companies. Indeed, gold-mining is now carried on with success within nine miles of the city of Melbourne itself. But perhaps the colony is so wealthy, so prosperous, so self-reliant, is growing weary of her connection with a pitiful Albion, and meditating a bold stroke for independence, such as that which separated from us our earlier settlements in America. A same letter which brings us news of this very material progress informs us that politics are a blank, that there is absolutely nothing to talk about, the only topic which seems to engross the attention of the public being the election of the Mayor of Melbourne—a gentleman who has made a large property in the colony, and who, moreover, in the truly national patronage of South—on a message round the globe for the purpose of presenting an address to her Majesty congratulating her on the marriage of the Prince Royal. This herald of approaching revolution carries with him £1,200 as a further subscription from the colony of Victoria to the Indian Relief Fund, and £100 for the fund for the relief of soldiers' daughters. Such are our tidings from Victoria.

"Let us now turn to New South Wales—a colony which was once a Cayenne or Lambessa, only with this important difference, that our convicts were sent there to live instead of to die. New South Wales is not in a tranquil political state as Victoria, for it is engaged at this moment in giving itself, under the name of a Reform Bill, what is virtually, in many respects, a new constitution. A warm struggle is going on; the Conservative minority fight their ground inch by inch; but the measure makes progress nevertheless, and will, for good or for evil, shortly become law. Another question has arisen, which, considering our long exclusion from all commerce with the Celestial Empire, has about it something of an air of comic retribution. The Chinese in New South Wales number at the present time no less than 25,000 souls. Like the Mormons, and for somewhat analogous reasons, they have been driven from the other colonies of Australia, and have found a refuge at last in New South Wales. It requires no detailed exposition to show that the immigration of 25,000 Chinese—men without women—carries with it most serious objections to an English community, and these objections are much aggravated and enhanced by the jealousy of the working classes, who view in these Celestial immigrants formidable opponents, whose competition must tend in a considerable degree to lower the rate of wages, which just at this moment has fallen below the ordinary average. The result has been, not an absolute prohibition, but certainly a very heavy duty on this kind of imported labour, for every Chinese is for the future to be charged, on landing, an entrance-fee of £10, nominally for the purpose of defraying the expenses they occasion to the Government, but really with the view of keeping them, if possible, out of the country altogether. The colony is about to undertake three railway extensions—to the south, to the west, and to the north. It has also had its first considerable railway accident—a clear proof of advancing civilisation. This colony alone has raised £3,000 as its contribution to the Indian Relief Fund.

"Such is a month's intelligence from Australia, chequered, like all human affairs, with adversity and prosperity, good and evil, hope and disappointment, but presenting on the whole no unpleasant, nor unsatisfactory picture of youthful communities working out their own destinies by their own energies, of hopeful and energetic progress, chequered only by those drawbacks and reverses which will wait upon the most prosperous men and undertakings. In the meanwhile the island of many names, the French colony of Réunion, finding itself grievously in want of labour, has been recruiting among the natives of the South Sea Islands, not without serious suspicion of kidnapping. The accusation is made by an English sailor, but is emphatically denied by the captain, who challenges proof, which in this case can hardly be forthcoming. Probably, however, enough has been done to prevent the repetition of the offence, and unless these natives of the Southern Ocean are very different from any of those with whom Europeans have hitherto come in contact, they will carry with them their own strict protection in their utter uselessness and inefficiency as labourers, in the filthiness of their habits, and the insubordination of their conduct. We regard the strong feeling which this case has excited in Australia as symptomatic of a healthy moral tone, and are glad to see that a great pastoral community, carrying on that pursuit in which slave labour is more particularly useful, evinces no inclination to tamper with the question, but holds as firmly aloof from it as if the Australian farmers were able to command any number of Dorsetshire or Oxfordshire labourers at eight shillings a week. Putting all things together, we see no reason to be ashamed of the monthly bulletins from our Australian colonies."

THERE IS A TALK IN PARIS of the creation of an Archbishop of Algiers. In that case a bishop's see will be established at Constantine.

AT THE CLOSE OF THE REIGN OF NAPOLEON I., the total number of members of the Legion of Honour was 9,000. Great progress has been made since then. There are now 272,000 members.

STORY OF A CHAIR.—There is a long story going the rounds of the French journals about an elbow-chair which was put up for auction after the death of a patient in the Hotel Dieu, Paris, as part of a poor woman's effects. It fetched 500 francs, though not worth ten. It seems that this piece of furniture was originally presented by the States of Mecklenburg to the Empress Maria Theresa, and it figured many years in her working cabinet up to the marriage of Marie Antoinette, who brought it with her to Paris, and it was such a favourite memento of her mother that she asked for it to be sent to her prison in the Temple. Her valet, Fleury, carried it after her execution to England, and gave it to the Prince Regent, from whose possession it got into that of the Duke of Cumberland, who brought it over to Hanover, and it subsequently found its way to Berlin, where it was given to an upholsterer to repair. In the washing of the back a person's portrait of a boy was found, and also a breast-pin set in brilliant—which latter was sold to a watchmaker called Naundorf, as well as some closely-written pages of Ms. Although the writing was in a foreign language, the watchmaker succeeded in making out that it consisted of a series of secret and very important instructions drawn up by Louis XVI. for the Dauphin, his son, the portrait being that of the latter. Accordingly, the watchmaker, some years after, gave himself out as Louis XVII., and produced the papers and portrait to prove his allegation. After making some noise in France and Belgium, this man died in 1849. His son, who called himself Duke of Normandy, went to Java in 1853. The workman who discovered the documents did not state how Naundorf became possessed of them till just before his death, when he made a full disclosure to his family.

IRELAND.

EXTRAORDINARY CHARGE.—At Ballycroy petty sessions, last week, information was given against a man named Kingston, who enjoys a pension on retirement from the Coast Guard service, that he said the charge was guilty of murder—that she murdered the Chinese and sepoys. The charge was fully investigated, and dismissed by the magistrates. The charge said: "It is said that proceedings will be taken against the parties who swore the information, as it is quite evident that it was to injure Kingston, owing to his connection with a Presbyterian school."

FORNERS.—In Ireland, not long since, two men, the brothers Corcoran, were condemned to death for the murder of Mr. Ellis, on evidence of a highly doubtful kind. A meeting was held last week at Nenagh to consider the case, and the petition was supported by several speakers, including John Kenyon, who, in a very rapid address, declared that justice should be done. The O'Donoghue, the chairman of the meeting, treated the case as one of England against Ireland. He declared that the Irish portion of the present Government are Orangemen, who are to crush if they could the free-voiced peasantry of Ireland.

BANQUET AT KILLARNEY TO SIR C. BRIGHT.—A banquet was given on Monday evening at the Royal Hotel, Killarney, to Sir C. Bright (recently elected by the Lord-Lieutenant), and to commemorate the successful laying of the Atlantic telegraph cable. Mr. H. A. Herbert, M.P., was in the chair, and among those present were his Excellency the Lord-Lieutenant, Mr. J. J. Gurney, chairman of the Atlantic Telegraph Company; the Duke of Devonshire, the Knight of Kerry, Lord Ocho Fitzgibbon, Sir C. Bright, Mr. J. J. Thompson, &c. The Lord-Lieutenant addressed the company in a few words.

CARDINAL WISEMAN.—The progress of Cardinal Wiseman in Ireland has been altogether peaceful. Our readers are aware that at the dinner given to him at Ballinacorney, the Queen's name was omitted from the list, while the "Long life, health, and happiness of the Most Holy Father the Pope" was first proposed, of course. On another occasion the Cardinal had declined to be present at a banquet to which the Cardinal was invited, for fear of some breach of state decorum. His Eminence has been preaching and lecturing in Dublin to large audiences, and has visited other places.

SCOTLAND.

STRANGE SCENE.—On Monday week, an elderly man and a young woman, giving their names as Mr. Gray and Miss Moffat, and who had arrived by steamer from London, took lodgings for a week in a house at Edinburgh. The other stranger stated that they were on a visit of pleasure to Scotland, and that the young woman was his niece. The latter, however, appeared to be labouring under nervous excitement, and had probably been aggravated, if not caused, by her drinking freely of her uncle of Scotch toddy. On Wednesday, she was much excited, and, indeed, hinted to her landlady a suspicion that her uncle had drugged her. She was recommended to consult a doctor, who prescribed lower food and the abstinence from stimulants; which prescription she did not strictly follow. Early on Thursday morning, Mr. Gray aroused the house with cries that "Mrs. Gray" was dead. And so it proved. The young woman was found on the floor in her dress, with her throat cut. The bed-clothes were pulled nearly over on the floor, as if the unfortunate woman had fallen backward, and in her fall had clutched the bed-clothes and pulled them along with her. A large table-knife was found among the bed-clothes. It became necessary, of course, to examine Mr. Gray. He described himself as a retired merchant, residing near the West India docks, and the deceased was his niece. He had been a widower for the last two years, and his niece lived with him as his housekeeper. He was much attached to her, and had left her £100 a-year for life in his will, which he had easily given by sending for that document from London and procuring it. They came down to Scotland merely on a pleasure excursion, during the passage she was much fatigued. He could not understand her motive for committing suicide; but she had been nervous and in very bad spirits for some time back. They had drunk toddy together on several occasions since coming to Edinburgh, and he thought the Scotch whisky had increased her disorder. Mr. Gray's statement has been confirmed by the young woman's father, who says his daughter had long been affected by nervous disorder.

DEATH IN A FRIEZE.—The "Life Journal" reports the death of a boy who, with several associates, amused himself in digging holes in the ground, which one of their number entered, while the others covered him up. The buried boy was then to make a noise, to prove who could be heard at the greatest distance; they also strove among themselves as to who could remain longest in their graves. On Friday last, when the boys had been engaged in their pranks, Mrs. Brown came by, and perceiving the boy projecting from the ground, she of course immediately exclaimed, when to her horror she saw it was her own child, who was quite dead.

SCIENCE IN A BELFRY.—John Grimstone, sexton of the parish church of Hamilton, rang the bell and performed the other duties of his functions; at the conclusion of the service he was found lying on the stairs leading to the belfry, with his throat cut; he had used a looking-glass in committing the act. His shirt sleeves were rolled up to the elbows, and his trousers to the knees. All the while the minister and congregation were kept in total ignorance of the horrible scene which had been enacted so closely to them. Grimstone was a man of irregular habits.

THE HIGHLAND SOCIETY'S CATTLE SHOW.—This show, which was held last week at Aberdeen, proved very successful. The show of stock and implements was equally good, and the number of visitors greater than usual. On Thursday £200 was taken at the doors for admission. The society's dinner was held on this day, the Duke of Athol presiding, the Earl of Kintore croupier.

THE PROVINCES.

UNNATURAL MURDER.—Mrs. Webster and her two daughters, the family of a deceased publican, at Dudley, have been committed for trial on the charge of causing his death. It is alleged that the deceased was knocked down in his own house, and beaten by his wife about the head with a poker, which was completely bent by the force of the blows. His daughters assisted their mother, and the unfortunate man was beaten and kicked in a violent manner that he died soon afterwards.

CHURCH DIFFERENCES.—The Rev. Simeon Bricknell, vicar of Eynsham, has caused a letter to be published in order to defend himself against charges preferred against him to the Bishop of Oxford. He says—"I have received a communication from your secretary, stating that he is 'desirous of your Lordship to inform me that complaint has been made to you that on Sunday, the 8th of August, the services in the parish church of Eynsham were held at unusual hours, and after a very hasty notice of the celebration; also that the early morning and forenoon services were conducted in a hurried manner, giving offence to the congregations.' Your secretary further adds that, in consequence of this complaint, your Lordship 'advised me.' The answer is, that Mr. Bricknell gave notice of the departure, early on the morning of the 7th; and that he did not hurry the morning service. He complains that he is condemned unheard; and he expresses a fear that the Bishop encourages espionage and delation. "The Bishop has frequently neglected the injunction—'Against a presbyter receive not accusation but before two or three witnesses.' But more especially so the time when I was instrumental in removing three stone altars from many cemetery chapels in your Lordship's diocese, and in preventing the consecration of a fourth." He adds, in a postscript, that three crosses, of which he had complained in January, were still appended during Divine service to the dress of the curate of Grove, licensed by the Bishop against Mr. Bricknell's wish. He found, too, in his paragon at Grove, a large cross in the room, a crucifix in another, and the brother of the curate, a convert to Romanism, in the Roman Catholic garb.

MILITIA RIOT.—A riot occurred on Thursday week at Great Yarmouth, between a party of the Fermanagh militia, now stationed in that town, and a number of the townspeople. Some of the latter were more or less injured, and the affair was considered so serious that the magistrates held a special investigation on Friday afternoon. Several persons attended, who bore testimony of having suffered in the mêlée. After hearing evidence, and discussing the matter, the magistrates directed their clerk to address a letter to the commanding officer of the regiment, suggesting the expediency of such regulations as would prevent another collision.

A FRANCISCAN MONASTERY IN NORTH WALES.—A few days ago the remains of a Franciscan monastery were laid at Porthcaph, North Wales, by Lady Fielding, Viscountess Fielding, a recent convert to the Roman Catholic faith, having given about fourteen acres of land for a site. His Excellency has also contributed £500 towards the construction of the edifice, which is expected to cost £2,500.

FOR LOVE.—A party of reapers, with women and children, were reaping from the harvest-field, by the side of the Blyth and Tyne Railway, on Sunday, when a most melancholy accident occurred. An old woman, who had a little paralytic grandson at the harvest with her. As they were passing down the road the child suddenly ran between the rails of the up-train, and the old woman, seeing the train from Blyth approaching, rushed to his rescue. Before she could get hold of the boy the train was down upon him, and she had only time to push him from between the rails when the

engine knocked her down, and the wheels passed over her, literally cutting her in two. The boy did not escape, but was struck on the head by the train, and there are no hopes of his recovery.

OPENING OF THE LIVERPOOL ACADEMY.—The annual exhibition of the Liverpool Academy is now opened. There are in all 900 pictures. The prize this year has been awarded to a very large picture by Mr. Ford Madox Brown—representing Chatterton reading one of his tales before King Edward III. and his court. The rival exhibition, which has been established by the opponents of the pro-Raphaelite school, is to open about the 4th instant. The effect of the competition has been to give to the Liverpool Academy this year a greater number and variety of pictures than last season.

A NEW SWINDLER.—Some swindler in London has fixed his eyes upon Sunderland, and seems determined to have money out of it. His scheme appears to be to learn who amongst the inhabitants have relatives in Australia, and what are the names of such relatives, and to write to the friends, as if he were the absent one returning home again, but unable to leave London for want of cash. Here is a sample of one of the letters, August 20, 1858. "My Dear John—I hope this will find you well as I leave London at present I arrived at Southampton on Wednesday and I am Very Anxious of getting To See you all and my Money I have in in Australian Notes. They want cash then until 21 days after arrival and if you could send me by return of Post for 12 I can give it to you When I come it is clear my Legation is all despatched of Purchasing some paper hangings To Take back with me. Give my Kind Loves to your dear Wife and my Grand children I am Longing To See you all Accept The Same yourself I hope To hear from you by return of Post I can get The Notes cashed in Sunderland and I shall be able to send you a letter from there I am your affectionate Father."

Director Mr. at Mr. Alfred Collier Rooms East Cheap, Near the Bridge London. "My Dear John" was intended for the writer's son, but even if "John" had not known his father's handwriting, a difference in the spelling of the surname at once exposed the forgery. In another case, a wife got a letter from her "husband," but there again the surname was misspelt, and the wife wrote to the London address, asking her "husband" to send down his likeness, and then she would believe in the authenticity of his letter.

THE SOUTH SHROPSHIRE COLLIERS.—Another open-air meeting of colliers was held at Brookmore, near Dudley, on Monday. The meeting was attended by about 3,000 persons. It was held in consequence of an invitation from the colliers of that district to those of Tipton, Oldbury, and West Bromwich; and it is computed that about 1,000 men from the disturbed district marched nearly seven miles to meet the men of Brookmore. The proceedings were commenced with the singing of the hymn commencing, "Britannia's sons, the slaves ye be," and then commenced the speech-making. James Jackson, of West Bromwich, told the men of Brookmore that so long as they remained at work they would supply the trade, and the men who had been hitherto keeping out would be unable to carry the struggle to a successful issue. John Finney, a shoemaker, of Dudley, who had been expelled from the police force, made some remarks intended to increase the ill-will of the colliers to that body, but he failed. Mr. Millar, of Dudley, an herbalist "doctor," called the colliers the props of old England and the support of her commonwealth. He regretted that the police had threatened the colliers with "cold steel," and promised that he would write to Mr. Roberts, of Manchester, to come over and see if proceedings could not be taken against the police-men who made such threats, and offered his pound towards the expenses that would be incurred in doing so. This remark occasioned loud applause, the men saying that they would find the rest of the money that would be required for this purpose. There was more speaking, after which a resolution was unanimously passed, pledging the men of the Brookmore district to join in the strike.

A SUBTERRANEAN DISTILLERY.—An illicit distillery, in full working order, has been discovered under a farm-house belonging to and occupied by James Morris, at Park Low, near Haslingden, Lancashire. A leaden pipe, fixed to the wall, was traced to the turf-room, where it disappeared under the flags of the floor. On the flags being removed, an opening, two feet broad and eight feet deep, was found, and at the bottom a cellar, about six feet square, was discovered. In this place there was a truck and a quantity of empty tubs, &c. Beyond, another passage led to a second cellar, about six feet by eight feet. Here were found worms, still, and all necessary apparatus for the illicit manufacture of spirits, together with several jars and jugs of spirit. The apparatus was made of tin chiefly, and was of such large dimensions that it had to be broken to pieces before it could be removed. Immediately the officers entered his premises, Morris drove eight head of cattle from the farm, and it is not known what he has done with them. On Saturday he was taken before the Blackburn magistrates and convicted in the penalty of £30 and costs; in default he was sent to jail for three months. He was thought to be a very religious man, and was frequently seen reading his Bible.

ANOTHER DEATH FROM CHLOROFORM.—It became necessary to operate on the foot of a child, whose parents live at Heathcote, near Tewkesbury; and to allay extreme pain, chloroform was administered. After some six or eight inspirations the desired condition appeared to be produced, the pulse had not indicated the slightest disturbance of the circulation, the countenance was perfectly composed and natural in colour as well as in expression, and the breathing was soft and uniform. The surgeon having given the handkerchief into the mother's hand, took the child's feet, when he made two short stertorous inspirations. The chloroform was at once discontinued; but the change from a slight to an extreme condition of anaesthesia became rapidly apparent; the pulse fell at once, and after a very few hurried and feeble beats ceased to be perceptible at the wrist; the lips assumed a livid hue, which almost instantaneously spread itself upwards and downwards over the whole face. Cold affusion was instantly and freely applied, and twice or thrice a succession of short, laboured inspirations gave hope that the heart was resuming its functions. Hot water was on the spot, and flannels taken from it were immediately applied to the epigastrium, but all in vain, for the patient ceased to breathe in about ten minutes. At the request, Mr. Watkins, the surgeon, said he was under the impression that the use of a cotton handkerchief on this occasion, of much stouter texture than the silk, cambric, or lawn handkerchiefs, which he had most frequently used, might possibly have prevented the due admixture of atmospheric air with the vapour, and thus the chloroform might have entered the air passages in a too concentrated form.

SEVEN LIVES LOST AT PORKELEIS MINE.—Seven lives have been lost in the Porkeleis United Mines, Cornwall, by a quantity of slime and water pouring down an old shaft. The "run" was so extensive that about thirty fathoms in length, twenty fathoms in breadth, and three fathoms in depth of the "country" around the shaft fell in, with all the slime, water, and stuff by which it was covered. A great many miners were at work at the time, but they all escaped save seven: enough, indeed!

TERRIBLE BOILER EXPLOSION.—A very destructive boiler explosion occurred, on Saturday morning, at the woollen cloth manufactory of Mr. W. Almond, at Gildersome, near Leeds. Four persons were killed, and several others were seriously injured. The explosion occurred just before the mill commenced to work. It is said that during the night the steam was kept up, and that the boiler was for several hours left in the charge of a mere lad. Bradley, the regular engineer, a young man of eighteen, who appears to have been very ignorant and unfit for such duties, came about six o'clock in the morning, and was amazed to find that some of the boiler plates were red-hot. Knowing no better, and desiring to cool them without delay, he at once turned on a quantity of cold water. Of course, the explosion followed instantaneously, and the wretched youth fell among the victims of his ignorance. His body was found in a field 150 yards from the mill. It had come into contact with a stone wall, at a distance of 110 yards from the mill, with such force, that a portion of the wall was thrown down; and the body in its flight had been denuded of clothing.

WIFE AND WOLF.—In France, the Society for the Protection of Animals does not enjoy that popular respect which it deserves; the small wits of the capital indulging in endless jokes at its expense. The last joke is to this effect:—A countryman, armed with an immense club, presents himself before the president of the society, and claims the first prize. He is asked to describe the act of humanity on which he founds his claim. "I saved the life of a wolf," replies the countryman: "I might easily have killed him with this bludgeon," and he swings his weapon in the air, to the intense discomfort of the president. "But where was this wolf?" inquires the latter, "what had he done to you?" "He had just devoured my wife," is the reply. The president reflects an instant, and then says, "My friend, I am of opinion that you have been sufficiently rewarded."

THE EARTHQUAKE IN MEXICO.—The earthquake that occurred in Mexico on the 19th of June was one of the most severe known since the Spanish invasion. At nine o'clock in the morning, a shock came from the south. This was followed by three more violent shocks from the same direction; then four more shocks, equally severe, from the east, and after them a few tremblings. In the city of Mexico, the strongest structures reeled to their foundations, the water spouted in jets from the sewers; the street lamps vibrated from east to west for a quarter of a minute. The earth opened in the streets; trees withered and swayed for many minutes, and some were thrown out of the earth. Houses, aqueducts, and railroads were seriously injured. About twenty-four towns and cities in Mexico sustained damage from the earthquake, and a vast number of lives were lost. Damage to the value of more than a million sterling was done to the city. All the violent shocks took place in the space of about one minute and a half. The shocks and tremblings lasted about three minutes.

FARMER BULL'S WATCH DOG.

MR. MONCKTON MILES, M.P., and Mr. Roebuck, M.P., were entertained on Thursday week, at the Annual Cutlers' Feast. Mr. Miles, in the course of an amusing address, spoke of his visit to Cherbourg as follows:—

"There was only one slight drawback, and that was a continued fear, which possessed every person on board the *Pera*, that, by some contrivance or other, the worthy member for Sheffield would be carried away from us and taken to some French fortress, to remain there for the rest of his life. We all knew what they would have done to him. We know, also, how you appreciate him, and that there is not any amount of ransom you would not have paid in order to recover him. But, at the same time, the very notion was painful to us; and when I saw my Hon. Friend on the deck of the vessel reading the 'Edinburgh Review,' amid the salvos of a thousand cannon, perfectly unconcerned, I thought, 'What a dreadful misfortune it would be if we were to lose my excellent friend!' He has given you his impressions of Cherbourg, which are not exactly the same as my own, because, when I stayed for a day or two afterwards, I was waited upon by a very handsome daughter of Normandy, and after receiving every kind of civility from the French Government and the French people, I should not think it right and courteous to express a severe opinion about any thing we saw. When we saw the place, we felt confident that against England it could do nothing. If there is any part of the matter I regard with any dislike, it is that we should utter a single word, or do a single thing, to familiarise people with the monstrous notion of an invasion of England by France. There cannot by any possibility be a conflict between two such nations, which have no interests that do not bind them together, which, when united, will carry civilisation throughout the world, but which, if they fell into internecine combat, would bring about a fearful state of things. I don't know which would be the most lamentable—the savage triumph of the conqueror, or the terrible indignation of the conquered. Gentlemen, on politics I must say nothing; and, therefore, I will merely remark, as curious matters of fact, that Lord Palmerston is now disporting himself on the Continent, and Lord Derby has sold all his horses. These phenomena imply a great change of events."

Mr. Roebuck also made a speech, and, after jocularly alluding to the rule not to talk politics at such banquets, and insisting that he would talk politics, as he was only a politician, spoke of his own part in the overthrow of Lord Palmerston, in consequence of his Lordship's truckling to France. He maintained that England was the marked object of hate with every despot. He said:—

"We went to Cherbourg, and there we floated in the waters of a despot. It may be said that I, in my position, ought not to say anything that excites national animosity. But I have an answer to that sentiment. Sir, the farmer who goes to sleep, having placed a watch-dog in his yard, hears that watch-dog bark, and in the anger of half-soundness, says, 'I wish Tear'em would be quiet,' and he bawls out of the window, 'Down, Tear'em!' Tear'em does go down, the farmer goes to sleep, and is awakened by the blazing light of his risks on fire. I am Tear'em! I tell you to beware. What is the meaning of Cherbourg? Are they afraid of Russia, of Austria, of Prussia? No. Are they afraid of England? No; not as an invader. What, then, does Cherbourg mean? It is a standing menace to England. Get your guns and ships ready, for, depend upon it, he knows in his heart that Cherbourg is a standing menace. Now I will tell you what the moral is. I am sent to Parliament as your representative. In the next coming Parliament there will be estimates, and everything that goes to protect England against foreign invasion will receive my hearty support. Depend upon it that that gallant nation that is our nearest neighbour cannot, will not, bear the dreadful burden which is now upon her shoulders. It will lift the burden off, and we standing by will see the terrible explosion. We shall have to be prepared against all coming calamity. And I beg of you, as you value your own hearths and your own happiness, to support me, your member, when I vindicate before the world England's safety against the world in arms. Sir, I fear that I have made this evening too serious; but depend upon it I have spoken but the words of truth, and I would finish by simply thanking you heartily for the manner in which you have received my speech."

CHERBOURG AND PLYMOUTH.—The "Plymouth Herald" has the following remarks on the strength of Cherbourg as compared with our own ports:—"Cherbourg is, after all that has been said, inferior to either Portsmouth or Plymouth. At Cherbourg the imperial establishments are all in close proximity, and within the same lines—namely, the dock-yard, steam factories, victualling and ordnance departments, medical hospital, barracks, ropery, &c., and they have, as has been correctly reported, three floating docks, with an area of fifty-two acres English; but they have no river, no creeks, no place whatever where ships might be laid up in ordinary, and swing round, exposing their sides to sun and air. When Mr. Lindsay told his collier friends how large the Cherbourg docks were, he might, as an Englishman, and a merchant too, have added that the imperial docks at Cherbourg were only equal to one-eighth the dock accommodation at Liverpool, prepared by private companies. Plymouth or Portsmouth have each far greater facilities for aggressive war than Cherbourg, and our establishments here are more efficient and extensive, but separate and under different superintendence. We have, in separate localities, the dockyard, steam-yard, victualling-yard, gun-wharf or yard, powder-mills and magazines at Bull Point, and the naval and military hospitals at Stonehouse-creek. Again, we have barracks in Devonport, Plymouth, and Stonehouse; a citadel and forts, &c.; we have, too, a breakwater and reservoirs of fresh water, and we have unrivalled inner, deep, and sheltered waters for our ships. The sea-frontage walls of Devonport dockyard and victualling-yards extend into the Hamoaze, and receive ships alongside, at low water of spring tides; and for an extent of 1,500 feet from Froward Point to North Corner, ships-of-the-line lie alongside the yard aloft at low water. Now, although the ships at Cherbourg, when in basin, lie aloft at low water, they cannot go in or out at all times of tide, simply for this reason—that the water in the bay is twelve or fifteen feet more shallow than the water in the artificial basins. The bay is sandy and bottom rocky; therefore cannot be dug out and kept permanently deep. The jetty, running out from the town and commercial docks, is about 1,800 feet long, but the outer end on which the lighthouse is built dries at low water of spring tides. The English do not require such extensive basins at their dockyards, because their dockyards are on the shores of deep and sheltered inland waters. Hamoaze is our great natural basin of some 650 acres of deep water—deeper even than Plymouth Sound. Portsmouth has similar but not equal advantages; so has Sheerness, Chatham, Woolwich, Deptford, Pembroke, Cork, Malta, &c. The French naval ports in the Bay of Biscay, namely, Brest, L'Orient, and Rochefort, have very fair water accommodation, and are less liable to attack than Cherbourg would be, if less strongly fortified."

THE CHANNEL ISLANDS TELEGRAPH.—The Channel Islands Telegraph has been successfully laid. The first message was a congratulatory address from the directors to her Majesty. The success of the undertaking caused great excitement. The streets were crowded with people, with flags flying in all directions, ashore and aloft. A procession, accompanied by military bands, paraded the town, which was illuminated in the evening.

MIRACLES NEVER CEASE.—A new miracle has been wrought in France. Bernadette Soubirous, a girl of Lourdes, thirteen years of age, professes to have received supernatural visitations in the grotto of Massabielle, near that city. The Blessed Virgin is said to have appeared to her, and on the spot where the vision occurred a fountain has sprung out of the ground. The water of this fountain has been found to work miraculous cures, and a vast concourse of people are already flocking to it for its miraculous qualities.

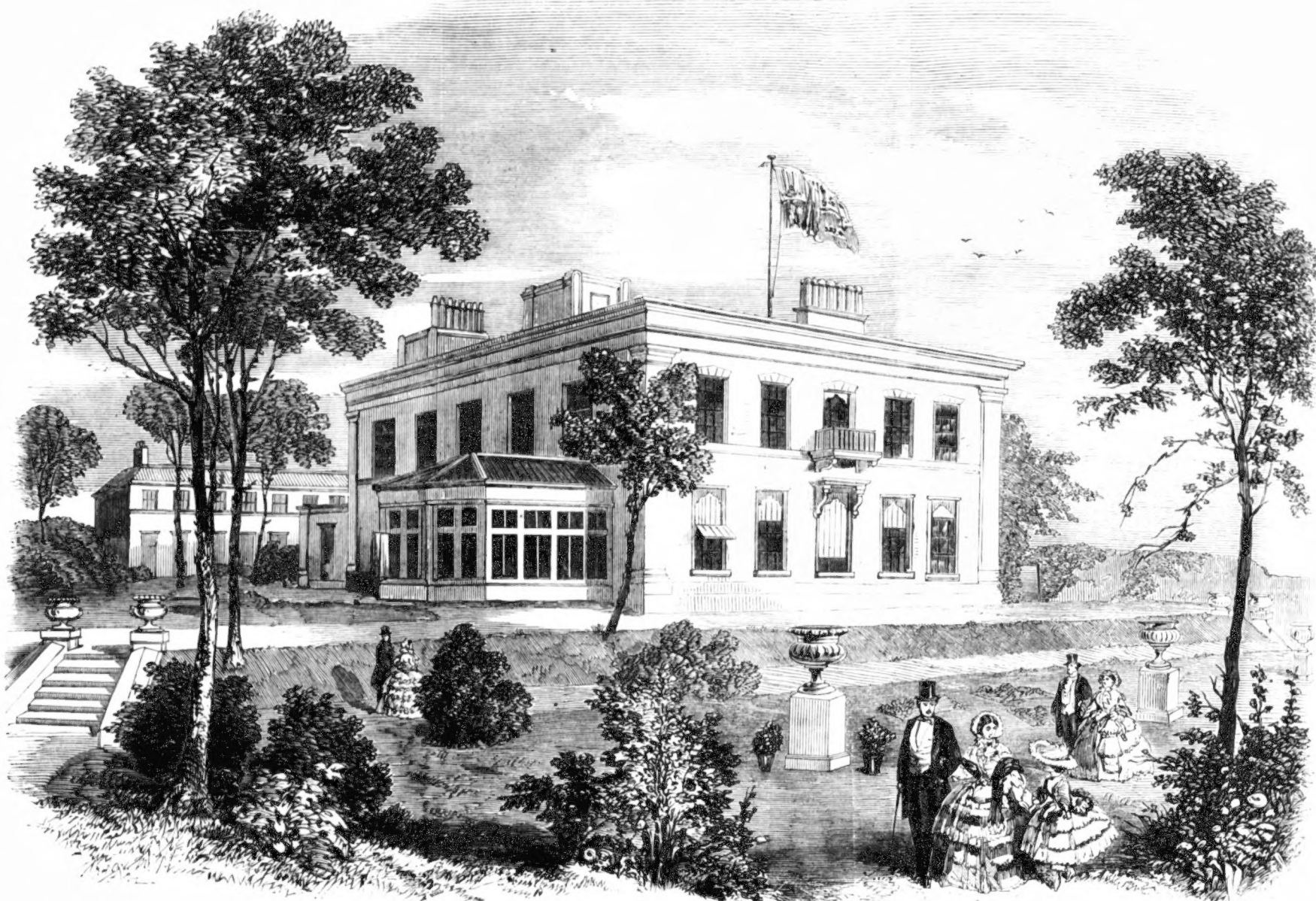
EXCAVATIONS AT MEMPHIS—ENTRANCE GATES TO THE SERAPIUM.

The discovery of the Serapium of Memphis was an event of modern archaeology. It took place in the month of November, 1850, and was made by M. Aug. Mariette, conservator of the Egyptian Museum at the Louvre.

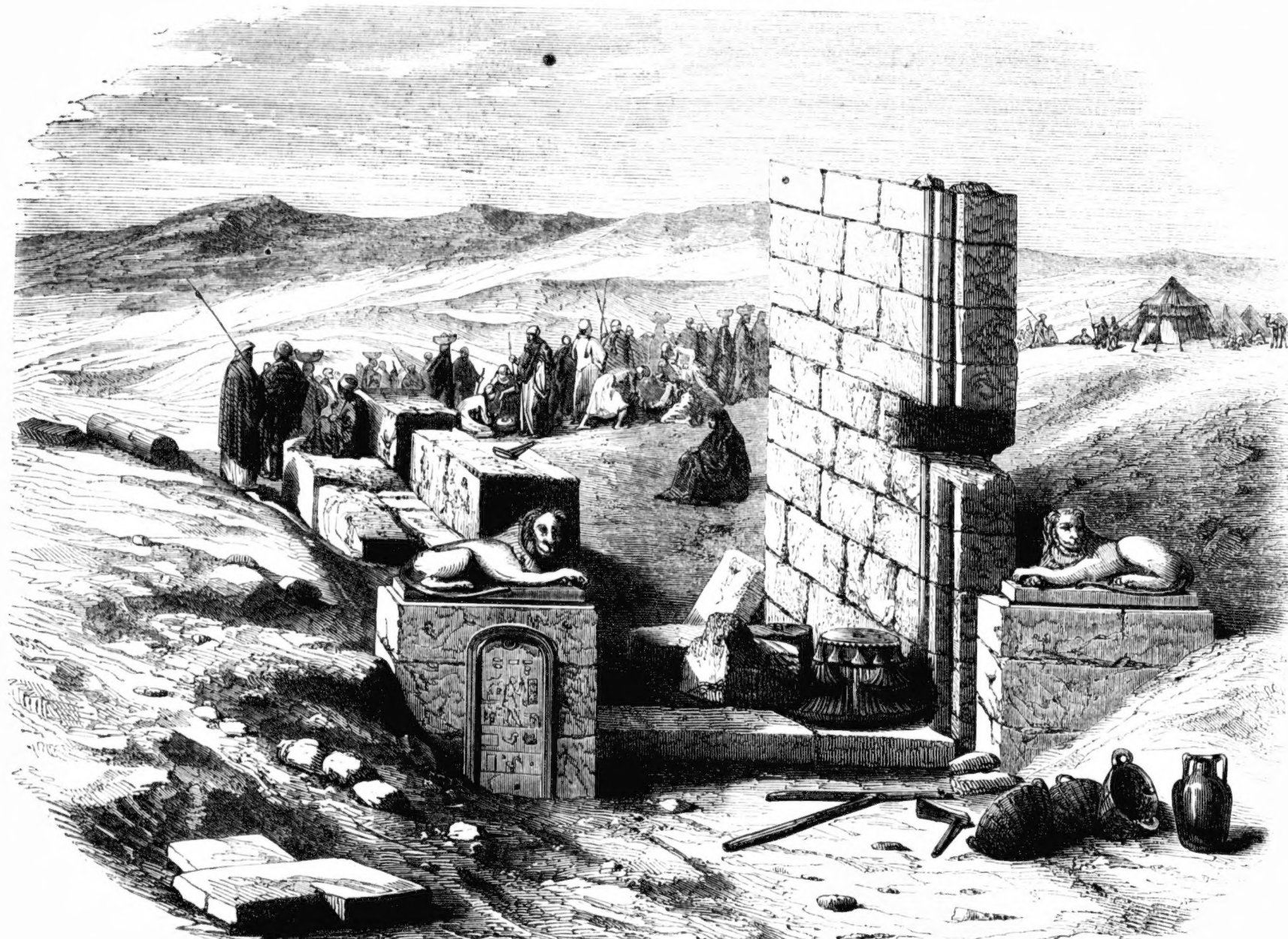
Four years labour in these excavations—which were carried on at the expense of the French Government—had already yielded promising results, when they were interrupted by the outbreak of the Crimean war. These excavations, however, were by no means exhausted; they had yet hidden treasures to disclose; and M. Mariette seized the first opportunity of completing his investigations. Not long since, this opportunity presented itself. M. Mariette was nominated to attend the projected expedition of Prince Napoleon to Egypt, and preceded his Highness upon the invitation of the Viceroy for the purpose of executing some works that would lend additional interest to the journey of the Prince.

Our engraving represents one of the fruits of the excavations made by M. Mariette in different parts of Egypt, by order, and at the expense of the Viceroy. The walls rising on each side are the remains of an entrance gate to the Serapium. At their feet are two crouching lions, exceedingly fine as specimens of the sculpture of the period. In the distance, are the tents of the *sarant* explorer.

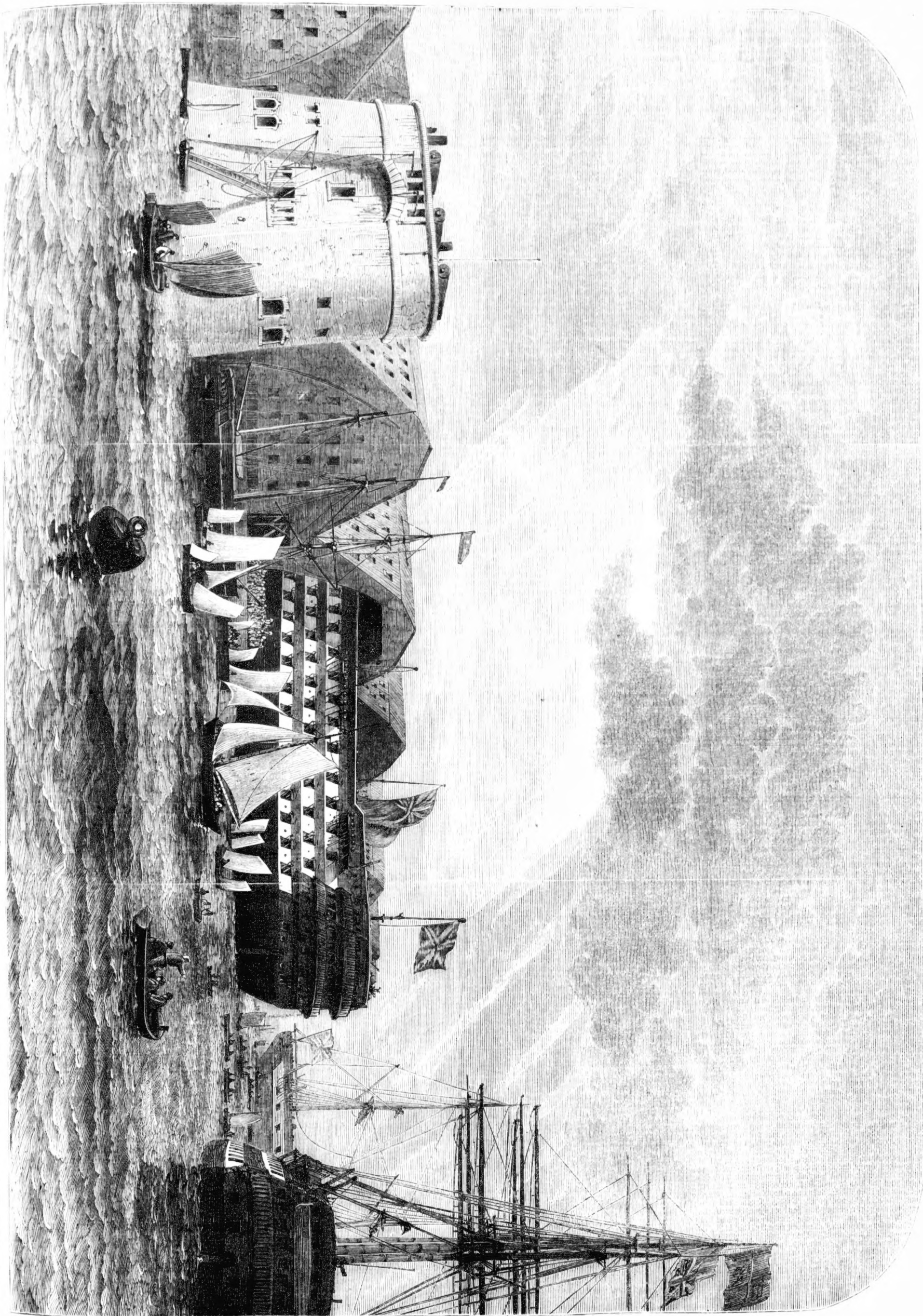
The illustration is from a drawing sent by M. Barbot, painter to his Highness Prince Halim Pacha, brother of the Viceroy.



THE RESIDENCE OF THE MAYOR OF LEEDS, OCCUPIED BY HER MAJESTY DURING HER VISIT.



ENTRANCE TO THE RECENTLY-DISCOVERED SERAPIUM AT MEMPHIS.—(FROM A SKETCH BY M. BARBOT.)



LAUNCH OF THE MINOTAUR CASTLE, 130 GUNS, AT PORTSMOUTH DOCKYARD.

We say little against the classics, because they have got (the Yankees say) "kind of" domesticated here, and one of the chief lessons they teach is patriotism, the most conspicuous of ancient virtues. But we certainly wish that English literature, which contains the essence of English mind and history, was more studied at our places of education. Not only ought it to appear conspicuously in our public schools, but it ought to be made more prominent than it is in our competitive examinations. How often does one meet a youth who can give a rational account, for instance, of the rise of the House of Commons? or of the internal organisation of England under the old kings, during whose reigns our liberties were established? Our instincts in England are all historical, but our tastes and studies are becoming less so. Hence, too, the prevalence of socialism in our politics. The great lesson of the English past is that everything that is good politically, *grows*. It is not established from abstract schemes and general speculations, but builds itself up, like a geological formation, by degrees. The socialist and other vague schemes of the day are all anti-historical, and would never be listened to by those whose minds had been formed by historical training. An Englishman is enriched with the energy of hundreds of Englishmen when he has familiarised himself with the national biography, taking the national scenery by way of "illustrations" to it. Instead of "a run through regions, with which our associations have nothing to do, why not a run to Cromwell's country, say, or the village where Milton retired while the plague was raging, or the Abbey where a Plantagenet is buried, or the house near which Bacon strolled for recreation after a spell at the "De Argumentis?" There is not a country in England or Scotland which has not a score of memorials of the ages during which our ancestors went through the discipline which helped to form us. There lie the roots of our greatness, and the fountains of our poetry, and the bones of our ancestors; and they have the first claim on our attention, be the others ever so respectable and well-founded. In a word, we must cultivate nationality more in our studies and amusements. This travelling at home is a beginning towards it. It is true that our hotel system wants much improvement, but it is precisely travelling itself which alone can effect this object; and in an age of so much publicity, no interest can long neglect the demands of public convenience.

JOY EDWARD YATES

The London Drainage Question. The Greenwich Board of Works, at a meeting held last week, adopted a resolution deprecating that any proposition for an outfall at Greenwich, and for discharging the sewage of the southern side of the Metropolis in or near the Greenwich marshes, is highly objectionable, and fraught with danger to the health of the inhabitants of this populous district. The Board protests against any such plan or project.

BURNING OF THE
ANTWERP EXCHANGE.

The building recently destroyed by fire was one of the most ornaments the town of Antwerp possessed. After the stranger had been shown the masterpiece of architecture and the Exchange was the next place introduced to his notice, the Antwerpans were proud of it, and they had reason to be so.

Above the renovated structure of the Exchange, a lofty cupola of Oriental style, and of a truly magnificent character, was erected in 1568, by the Duke of Brabant, Duke of Burgundy, and Duke of Luxembourg.

During three centuries, from 1561 to 1853, the cupola remained uncovered, having no other enclosure than its four outer walls; and yet the Antwerp Exchange was thought to be so beautiful that, our own Exchange was built on the same model in 1608.

It was in 1853 that the matchless cupola threw, for the first time, its graceful lines of richly ornamented iron-work above the hitherto roofless building.

The domes of St. Peter at Rome and St. Mary des Fleurs at Florence, which are reputed the largest in the world, measure only 133 yards external diameter. The cupola of the Antwerp Exchange measured 53 yards.

It absorbed in its construction 1,400,000 lbs. of iron, and 600,000 lbs. of glass, the whole mass being supported by twelve cast-iron pillars fixed against the walls.

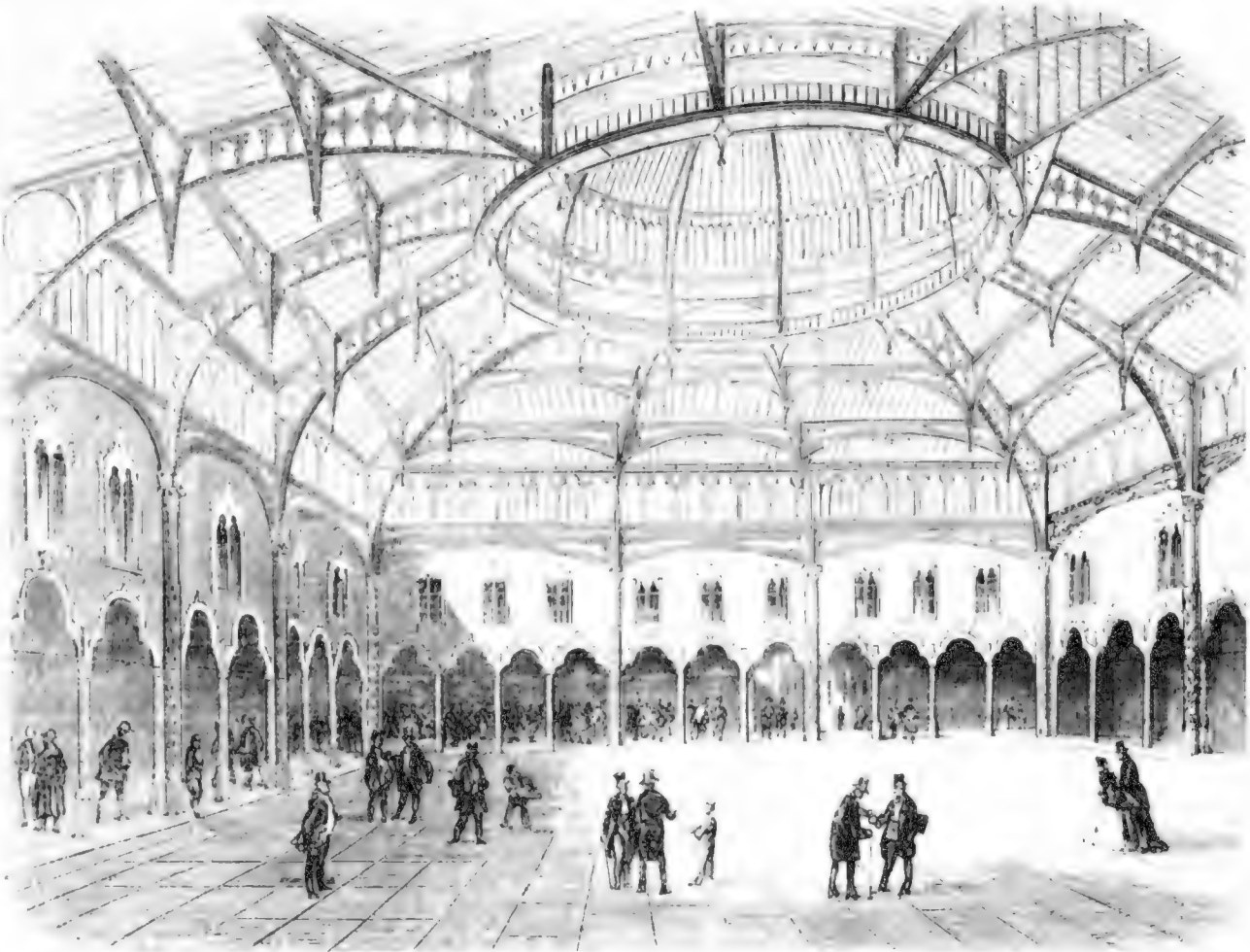
On the night of the 2nd of August, at about eleven o'clock, a neighbouring house took fire, and unfortunately the flames speedily reached the old temple of commerce, greedily feeding on the piles of valuable documents stored away in its archives. These, indeed, were first assailed. Every exertion was made that could be made to save the time-honoured relic; but all was unavailing. By twelve o'clock the flames had

in with a crash and six minutes. Nothing could be saved; the destruction was complete. The cupola had cost in its erection £18,000. In the closets of the Tribunal of Commerce were many thousand pounds' worth of protected bills, all of which are lost. Art, too, has been a sufferer. Beautiful frescoes, worked at unceasingly for some years before, were utterly destroyed.

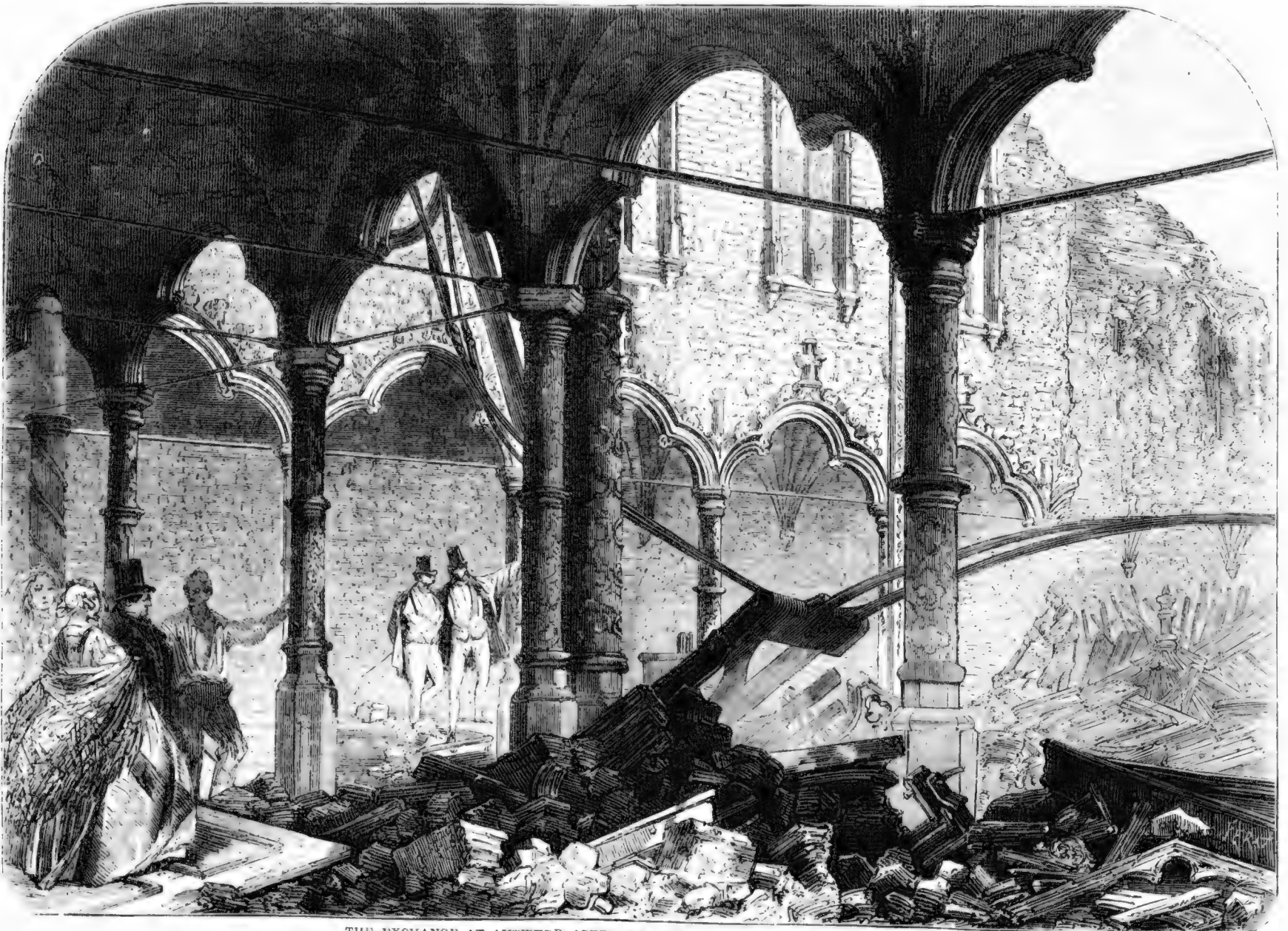
Antwerp has thus been robbed of one of its proudest monuments—dear to the inhabitants from its antiquity, and as a memorial of its old mercantile fame.

ment is made in the St. Petersburg journals:—In demolishing the apartments of the Hereditary Grand Duke, in what is called the "Great Palace," in that city, the skeleton of a female was found covered with fragments of clothing, which fell to dust on being exposed to the air. There is not the slightest tradition, they add, to show the woman was, nor why she was closed up in the wall.

AN ENGLISHMAN has just ascended the Dom, the highest Swiss mountains, for it is 14,600 feet above the level of the sea. Some curious traditions have appeared at Stockholm.



THE EXCHANGE AT ANTWERP, PREVIOUS TO THE FIRE.



THE EXCHANGE AT ANTWERP, AFTER THE FIRE.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY M. DUPONT.)



TABLE D'HOTE, BOULOGNE.

BY THE SEASIDE—NO. XII.
BOULOGNE SUR MER.
(Continued from last week.)

THE TABLE D'HOTE.
Visitors at Boulogne, if they go for only a day, should always dine at the *table d'hôte* to taste French cookery, see French manners, and note the curious characters that may be found there. These dinners are not expensive; three francs to three and a-half is the range of cost, exclusive of wine. But if they cannot speak French, they should ask some Englishman who can act as guide. The young gentleman portrayed in the illustration has evidently transgressed the *Lex loci*. The bottle before him, with the napkin round the neck, is a sign that the place is taken. And the French *garçon* is explaining this to him with great volubility and grimace. But being ignorant of both the language and grimace, he is in a quandary, wondering what it can all mean. He sees the bottle and napkin, but of the meaning of this hieroglyphic he is as profoundly ignorant as he is of the arrow-headed characters in the British Museum. There is nothing more ridiculous than the sight of an Englishman in a fix for the want of a few words of French. On the port one day I saw this sight in perfection. An old gentleman was walking along, when there came behind him a row of sailors towing a boat. Suddenly all around him there arose a cry of "Prenez garde! monsieur;" but as he took no notice, there burst out a perfect shout from all quarters "Prenez garde! Monsieur;" "Monsieur, prenez garde!" Still the old gentleman walked on, all unconscious even that he was the cause of the row. In a moment the rope would have struck him, for he was between the towers and the quay, and sent him perhaps plunging into the water; but just then a strong portress of the Chamber of Commerce laid hold of him, and ran with him out of the way, knocking his hat off in the process, and disarranging his wig. The poor old gentleman wondered what it all meant, and turned furiously upon his saviour. And it was only when an officer of the customs brought his hat, and explained in broken English the dangerous position that he had been in, that he began to comprehend matters, and smoothed down his ruffled plumes. The English around laughed immoderately at the old man's ludicrous position and angry looks. The French did not laugh—they are too polite. But to the *table d'hôte*. I said it is the place to see character. One day I dined at a large hôtel. We sat down, about sixty in number; by my side was a portly Englishman, of the true traditional John Bull dimensions; and as I was not much disposed to eat myself, having just got ashore, and still suffering from "intestinal commotions," which neither brandy nor soda could quell, I amused myself by taking observations. My fat friend had also come by boat, but he was evidently too solidly compacted together for the motion of the ship to disturb him, and I soon saw that dinner was the



great central fact of his daily life—in the morning to be enjoyed in prospect, and in the evening to be the pleasant subject of retrospection. His preparations for the event were curious. First, his napkin was unrolled, and carefully spread over his protuberant stomach; next his knives were examined, the edges of them felt, the plates counted, and when all this was done, he placed himself back in his chair, and waited calmly for the great event. And what an event! There were eight courses came on that day, and of every one did my worthy neighbour partake. These were exclusive of vegetables, of which he made quite a

famine all round, and of bread, which he was incessantly calling for. When he first wanted bread he was in a fix. The waiter did not understand the word—ran and brought him all sorts of things, and was exceedingly puzzled. At last I helped him out, and I was excessively amused to hear him every five minutes singing out, "Here, you garçon, du pain." Towards the close of the dinner, he seemed to flag, and I thought he was done, although there was still one dish that he had not touched. At last I discovered the cause of his hesitancy. The viands were covered with thick gravy, and he did not quite understand what they were; but not to be balked, he took a spoon, and scraping off the gravy, he muttered, "By George, they are sweetbread," and immediately took one on his plate. "Surely," said I to myself, "that's a settler." But, no. When the cheese came, he partook of that, and some greenage plums with it. After that he lolled back in his chair, and sipped his wine, evidently with profound enjoyment. His neighbours opposite were very different. They were French—father and daughter—and had suffered severely on board. Their faces were pale, not with the ashy paleness of death, but of the colour of tallow candles; and as the different courses went away untouched, I could see them shiver with disgust. Whether they saw my fat friend, I cannot tell; but if they did, they must have been profoundly astonished. He reminded me of a wag whom I met with in town, who ate for his dinner a steak and a half, with I know not what besides; and upon my asking him if he never suffered from disordered stomach. "Oh, no," said he; "if my stomach won't carry what I put into it, it's no stomach for me."

BATHERS.

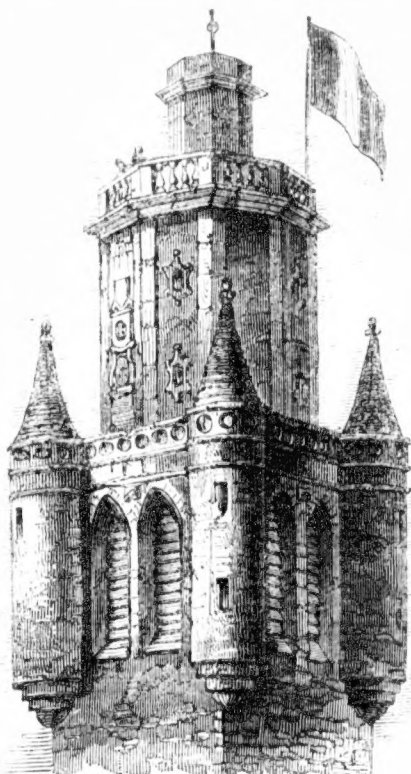
There is not much to be said about the bathers of Boulogne. The bathing is not first-rate in my estimation. The shore is flat, and you have to go a long distance before you can get into deep water. Nor does the custom of men and women bathing together, however well they may be clothed, recommend itself to my old-fashioned notions of decorum; and, moreover, they are not always well clothed. I have often asked myself what would young ladies say if it were proposed that they should walk on the pier with a gentleman, each in a bathing costume, on a windy day. And yet why not? They can be seen from the pier and the shore walking into the water, as well as if they walked thereon.

THE FEAST OF ASSUMPTION—NAPOLEON'S DAY—PROCESSION, ETC.

I did not know, when I arrived here, that there were soon to be some grand doings. In fact, I am not sure that I found it out until five o'clock in the morning of the day, when I was startled from my sleep by such an awful roar of cannon, that not only did my bed quiver, but I quivered too. And no wonder! for, close to my lodgings are the ramparts of the Haute Ville, and from these ramparts the artillerymen were greeting the day with a salute of twenty-one guns. Whether the cannon was in honour of the Virgin Mary or Napoleon, I cannot tell. Devotes



UNE BAIGNEUSE.



THE BELFRY, BOULOGNE



BATHING WOMAN.

might take it for Mary, admirers of Napoleon for their idol. As the showman says, "You pay your money, and you take your choice." Nor could I rightly distinguish, during the whole day, the political from the religious. However, it was not of much consequence. Perhaps it was not intended that I should; perhaps it was artfully meant that the two ideas should blend with one another. Besides the roar of the cannon, there was the booming of the large bell from that wonderfully antique-looking belfry. And antique it is, too, for it tolled forth its solemn peals when Godefroy de Bouillon started for the conquest of Jerusalem, and also rung out the alarm when our bluff Harry threatened the town with destruction.

The grand ceremony of the day was the religious procession, and certainly this was very effective, putting all processions that I have seen in England entirely into the shade. In the first place, it was a fine sunny day, and the innumerable small tricolour flags which hung from the windows of the houses in the principal streets, contrasting with the green shutters which you are aware no window is without, had a very pretty effect. The procession was composed of troops of young ladies and children, some dressed in pure white muslin, others in sky blue, others in pink, interspersed with monks, priests, bishops, nuns, sisters of mercy, and thickly studded with banners of all colours. All the young ladies wore wreaths of flowers, principally white roses; and some carried olive branches in their hands, some bullrushes, and others rich bouquets of flowers. This procession was at least half a mile long, and as it came down the steep handsome Grand Rue, viewed from the bottom of the street, the effect was very beautiful. What was exactly the central idea of all this I could not gather, but I suppose it must have been a recognised mode of paying honour to the Virgin. All the schools, convents, churches, monasteries, and religious societies, seemed to have turned out with their relics and banners, each party headed by its superior, priest, or bishop. When the procession left the High Town, and emerged from the ancient gateway, led by a formidable-looking Swiss, with halbert on his shoulder, it would not have been difficult to have imagined the middle ages back again—the palmy days of chivalry, and Rome.

CONCLUSION OF THE BIRMINGHAM FESTIVAL. (From our own Correspondent.)

We promised last week to complete our necessarily unfinished account of the Birmingham Musical Festival, and in particular to notice, with closer regard to detail, Mr. Henry Leslie's "Biblical Cantata," on the suggestive theme of "Judith."

It appears that, on the whole, this great musical gathering has scarcely been an average financial success; notwithstanding the reasonable expectation that the total amount of money received for the funds of the General Hospital, would be largely in excess of any sum taken on a previous occasion. One cause of drawback, and not a little cause, has been crinoline! When the hall seemed to be crowded, there was a great deal of space filled only by hooped petticoats.

Costa's oratorio, "Eli," which was composed for and performed at the last Birmingham festival, that of 1855, was given on the Wednesday of last week. As might be expected, the result answered for the careful strictness of the drill. The opening chorus, "Let us go pray," and the more magnificent "Hold not thy peace," with the really grand termination, "God and King," were rendered in a manner worthy this famous choir. The semi-chorus of angels, "No evil shall befall thee," was honoured with an encore. It was in the choruses that Mr. Costa's work, of management as well as of invention, best showed itself. The "Hosanna," concluding the first part, and, yet more signally, the "Hallelujah, Amen," with which the oratorio terminates, had a majestic effect. Still, several of the solo parts were preferred; and Mr. Sims Reeves won the first encore of the morning, by his spirited declamation of the "War Song," while Madam Novello was very near gaining the same compliment on two occasions, the first being her interpretation of the air "Turn thee unto Me," and the second her bravura singing of "I will extol Thee," although her expression did not seem to us half jubilant enough for this latter *morceau*. One encore fell to the band, who played the "march" superbly. Madam Viardot sang the part of Samuel with the unaffected simplicity which ought to mark the character; but Madam Viardot labours under one great disadvantage of genius: she never does anything twice alike; and, inasmuch as her first effort is sure to make a lasting impression on the hearer's memory, there is the inevitable disappointment of difference, when you listen to her execution of the same thing a second time. Signor Belletti, one of the most conscientious of living musicians, was well suited with the part of Eli; and Mr. Weiss sustained his original part, the "Man of God," with not less artistic ability. Mr. Montem Smith, who is steadily and deservedly rising in reputation as an oratorio singer, did full justice to the little share of music which fell to his lot.

The concert on Wednesday evening was a similar *mélange* to that of Tuesday. Mozart's "Jupiter" symphony was played with fine effect by the orchestra. Cushman's trio, "Ti prego O madre pia," one of the most promising indications of a genius which never reached maturity, was well sung by Mademoiselle Victoire Balle, Miss Dolby, and Mr. Montem Smith. Madam Albani followed with her own *brindisi* from "Lucrezia Borgia," and, as a matter of course, was compelled to repeat that never-tiring performance. Mr. Sims Reeves sang, in a marvellously ineffective, and, as we thought, careless, manner, a new ballad, of which we do not recollect the tune, title, subject, or composer's name; and Mr. Weiss then gave Purcell's "Mad Tom," with the requisite force to produce an encore. Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. Montem Smith, Mr. Weiss, Mr. Smythson, and the chorus, rendered full justice to Mendelssohn's very inferior cantata addressed "to the sons of art." This ended the first division; and operatic "gems" filled out the remainder of the concert, which never flagged to the last.

On Thursday the "Messiah" of Handel attracted the largest audience, or, at all events, the most lucrative audience, of the Festival, as the hall was entirely filled with guinea ticket-holders. The performance warranted the anticipatory enthusiasm. Never has there been given, we believe, so perfect a performance of this mighty work. We speak in these general terms, and avoid particulars, for two reasons. In the first place, many criticisms of the executant force, together with elaborate essays on the genius of the oratorio, have been beforehand with our paper. And, secondly, we have reserved a certain space for Mr. Leslie's new production.

It was infinitely more daring, we will say courageous, for Mr. Costa to write an oratorio than for Mr. Henry Leslie. The very reputation of the first, superior as it was to that of the second, acted detrimentally. Mr. Costa was well known—that is, popularly known, as a leader of fiddlers; while Mr. Leslie was, in an extensive measure, unknown, as a rising and ambitious musician, mysteriously allied with the old classical composers, and somehow antagonistic to opera. Mr. Costa gained as much praise as he could well expect by his "Eli." It was at once allowed, by scornful dilettanti, to be clever! and it has not yet been crushed even by that terrible term of commendation. Mr. Henry Leslie has not gained much more praise; nor has he earned praise better, in our belief, than did the conductor of the Royal Italian Opera band when he sought his inspiration cathedral aisles among. Dropping all comparison, which we allow to be odious, though we find it to be useful, Mr. Leslie's composition may be fairly described as being masterly in orchestration, often grand in its choral parts, and worthy praise on the special count of its affording opportunities for the display of individual talent. We have already noticed that the words of this cantata have been selected from the Scriptures by Mr. Henry P. Chorley, and have "had our say out" with respect to his claim of reverential credit, in patching up a libretto from the Bible *passim*, instead of supplying the necessary language from his own respectable intellect. Mr. Chorley declines to intermix his phraseology with "the lofty and lyrical language of Scripture;" so, when the legend of the widow of Bethulia wants filling out, he fills it by choosing apposite passages from different parts of the Bible. This may be very satisfactory to a large and respectable body of the British public, but there is never-

theless a question which we raised last week, whether it be more presumptuous to invent interpolations than to search the Scriptures for a notion of finding scraps to tally with one's ideas of dramatic effect. That Mr. Chorley has, at any rate, succeeded in his conscientious endeavours, is a fact that may be inferred from the following admirably dramatic passage, concluding the second part:—

HOLD UP YOUR HANDS—DRINK NOW, AND BE MERRY WITH US.
BACHANALIAN CHORUS—DRINK NOW, AND BE MERRY WITH US. TO-MORROW SHALL BE AS THIS DAY, AND MORE ABUNDANT.
JUDITH AND HER MAID—BOAST NOT THYSELF OF TO-MORROW, FOR THOU KNOWEST NOT WHAT THE DAY MAY BRING FORTH.
CHORUS—BEHOLD, JOY AND RICHNESS! COME, DRINK, AND BE MERRY WITH US. TO-MORROW SHALL BE AS THIS DAY, AND MORE ABUNDANT. WE WILL FILL OURSELVES WITH STRONG DRINK. THE MIGHTY MAN SHOUTETH BY REASON OF WINE.

The chorus of revellers is renewed, on the opening of the third part, in these equally well chosen words:—"To-morrow shall be as this day, and more abundant. A little sleep, a little slumber—a little fiddling of the hands to sleep." These drinking choruses are not the best points in the cantata, so far as Mr. Leslie's part in the work is concerned. Indeed it is in the instrumental portions, and especially in the introductions, that he has excelled. But there is fine music in some of the solo parts; and, as already intimated, Madam Viardot, in particular, has "moments."

Friday morning was occupied with two other works besides Mr. Leslie's cantata. These were Mendelssohn's Hymn of Praise, the "Lauda Sion," pure, sweet, simple, tranquil, and soporific. Miss Dolby, Madam Novello, Mr. Montem Smith, and Mr. Weiss did nothing to disturb the harmonious drowsiness of this protracted hymn. Beethoven's service in C came last: the "Kyrie Eleison," "Gloria in Excelsis," "Agnus Dei," and other portions of the most beautiful mass ever composed, being rendered by Madam Novello, Miss Dolby, Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. Weiss, and the magnificent chorus, with true effect.

The festival was concluded by the usual ball, of which all that can well be said is, that it was the festival's usual anti-climax.

THE PRICE OF PROVISIONS.—The average price of wheat in the first three months of 1856, 1857, and 1858 was respectively 72s. 4d., 56s. 10d., and 46s. 5d. a quarter. The fall of price since 1856 has been 50 per cent., and since 1857, 18 per cent. Beef and mutton by the carcass at Newgate and Leadenhall markets were cheaper in the winter quarter of 1858 than in that of 1857. The price of beef fell from 3d. to 5d. a pound, of mutton from 6d. to 5d. a pound. Beef was at the same price, mutton dearer, than in the first three months of 1856. Potatoes attained an exorbitant price, York Regents selling at the water-side market, Southwark, at 15s. 6d. per ton, 39 per cent. higher than in 1857, and 77 per cent. higher than in 1856.

VERSE IN THE PULPIT.—"The last thing we should have finished, is 'I have heard within the pulpit echoes of the form and fashion, of Longfellow's 'Hawthorne.' In the forefront of the season, down at (then not crowded) Rangoon, an acute dissolving preacher, to attract a numerous gathering, advertised his dissipation, twice, D. V., on the next Sunday, sermons twice then to deliver, in majestic blank verse, season very weary had they, listening to the man who did it; man alone, these his wit too. To describe we will not venture, how the pulpit went onward working, at each lifting of the handle, dribbling forth its stunts in measure. Very painful 'twas to hear it, very pleasant to the speaker; Love was the all-embracing subject; quite unduly was the treatment. But twice with a moral point; moral pointed very sharply; sharply pointed to the pulpit; and it showed how if our bosoms glowed ten with the Love he painted, we should prove it by a liberal coming-down at the collection."—Athenaeum.

CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORELAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—The annual exhibition of stock, implements, &c., in connection with the Cumberland and Westmoreland Agricultural Society, took place on Friday the 5th, at Penrith. The concourse of spectators was very numerous. The exhibition was held in a large field, which overlooked the town, and from which a splendid view of the mountain scenery round Ulswater was obtained. A large number of implements was shown. As regarded stock, the show was excellent.

MR. ROBERT STEPHENSON AND WORKING ENGINEERS.—The workmen employed at Sunderland Bridge presented Robert Stephenson, Esq., M.P., and his brother engineers, with an address, on the occasion of his visit to Sunderland in company with the members of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. Mr. Stephenson, in reply, said: "There are no members of society for whom I have a higher respect than for industrious and intelligent workmen. It is to them that the engineer is indebted for the full and efficient realisation of his conceptions, which, however good they may be, must largely depend upon the skill of the workman for their success. The progress made in the higher branches of engineering during the last thirty years may be attributed in a great degree to the improved skill and intelligence of the workmen. The advance of mechanical science, and its application to useful purposes, must always go hand-in-hand with the skill and also with the comfort of the working-classes. I cannot refer to a better example in proof of this than the bridge upon which we are now standing. The alterations and improvements which you are so admirably carrying on could not have been executed at the time when the original bridge was designed. If the engineer, therefore, had even designed the bridge as it is now intended to be made, his mental labour would have been vain and useless, for there was not sufficient skilled labour in the country to realise such an idea. I merely take this bridge as an appropriate example on the present occasion, because it is a work you are now carrying out under my own direction; but it is only necessary to look around, and we meet everywhere with engineering works to which the remarks I have just made apply in the strictest manner, and reflection on such subjects teaches us to feel that skilled labour is the great fulcrum upon which all our social progress depends, and that the success of this progress is just in proportion to the skill of the labour brought to bear upon the great works so thickly scattered throughout our country."

THE SEXES IN AUSTRALIA.—By the last returns of the Registrar-General of Victoria, we perceive that the numerical preponderance of men over women amounted to the astounding sum of 131,000 in a population of 470,000. In other words, there were only about 168,000 women to 292,000 men, and this proportion was becoming even more unfavourable. Now these 131,000 unhappy bachelors consist mainly of men earning nearly the best wages in the world. An acre of land can be purchased for 20s., and what more obvious to the well-paid workman than that the only things necessary to a reasonable amount of earthly felicity are a cottage, a garden, and a wife? Are statistics always uninteresting to fair readers?

THE SUEZ CANAL SCHEME.—It seems that this scheme is to be persevered in, spite of the objections of our politicians and the dissensions of our best engineers. The capital, calculated at £2,000,000, has been nearly all subscribed. The portion of the sum reserved for England to pay is £1,000,000; the rest is contributed from the other European states and from Turkey, Egypt, and Syria. The Viceroy of Egypt has given between three and four thousand acres of land for the scheme, and it is proposed to hold a general meeting in Paris, in the course of a few weeks, for finally carrying out the project.

THE DISASTER AT ASTRAKHAN.—A letter from Astrakhan, dated 12th of August, gives the following account of the fire which caused such fearful destruction in that city:—"The fire first declared itself among a quantity of timber lying on one of the quays of the Volga, and shortly afterwards spread to another quay filled with casks. Notwithstanding the exertions of the firemen, the flames, fanned by a violent wind, quickly destroyed a number of houses. At three in the morning, some burning beams having been carried by the wind into a boat laden with wood in one of the docks of the Volga, the fire communicated to a number of other boats. It was a terrific sight. Shortly afterwards a burning boat communicated the fire to a barge laden with gunpowder. Before it could be scuttled it blew up with a loud explosion. The burning timber was cast by the force of the explosion to a distance of four versts, where a corn store was set on fire. The following day seventeen other boats, all with cargoes on board, took fire. Four of these boats were laden with stores for the army. 121 houses, and eleven quays covered with various objects, but principally with timber, fell a prey to the flames. The number of victims as well as the number of boats destroyed has not yet been ascertained." Astrakhan is, or was, a town of European Russia, situated at the embouchure of the Volga, and contained about 60,000 or 70,000 inhabitants. It was the great depot for commerce with Bokhara, Persia, and parts of India. It was, in fact, the Sebastopol of the Caspian, and was intended as the great advanced fortress of Russia in her encroachments on Persia.

RUSSIA IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.—The journals of Nice announce that an order has been given to clear out as quickly as possible all the warehouses which surround the dock at Villefrance. This fact favours the probability of a statement made some time ago, that the dock was to be ceded to a Russian steam navigation company. The Odessa Steam Company will, it is said, be placed in possession of it, and the vessels of the Russian navy are to turn it to use as a port to touch at, and where they may also keep a supply of spare stores of all kinds.—(We greatly doubt the authenticity of this report.)

LAW AND CRIME.

Or all the multitudinous articles which have lately appeared in the London journals upon the subject of the lunacy law, every one appears to have been evoked rather by the occurrence of some individual instance than by the statutory enactment which has been the parent of the mischief. We claim, therefore, to be the first to point out the Act of Parliament, 8 and 9 Vict., cap. 100, as one of the very worst specimens of legislation ever brought under public notice. This act is entitled "An Act for the regulation of the care and treatment of lunatics." It is in fact "An Act to facilitate the imprisonment of sane persons as lunatics," and does not in any way whatever provide for the treatment of lunatics otherwise than by their imprisonment in the houses of certain licensed and unlicensed persons. The act consists of 118 clauses, and of these upwards of one-tenth are entirely engrossed by the creation of places for certain fortunate commissioners and their underlings, and in provision for salaries to all parties. These commissioners, of whom Lord Ashley (now Lord Shaftesbury) is the appointed chief, receive, it appears, from the public purse one thousand five hundred pounds each annually, for the performance of those duties which their own recently-published report proves them to have scandalously and systematically neglected for thirteen years! In addition to this enormous salary, which, properly employed, might secure the services of some of the most astute and active minds in the kingdom, (among which those of the present commissioners would certainly never be reckoned), these gentlemen are empowered to be paid their travelling and other expenses. A very nice place this for any one possessed of an intellect of the Shaftesbury, Campbell, and Gaskell calibre! There are eleven of these fortunate individuals, of whom three are barristers, three physicians, two lords, and the remainder nothing particular. Provision is made for the superannuation allowance of these lucky persons. They are assisted by a secretary, at a salary of eight hundred pounds, and two clerks at two hundred a year each, besides "visitors" and "visitors' clerks," to be paid sums to be specified by justices. All this is quite independent of the real practical establishment of the "Masters in Lunacy" office, while the care and direction of lunatics' property is still delegated to the Lord Chancellor. For every class of these *employes* a special oath of secrecy is set out. Why such an oath should be required in this particular branch of law, in which of all justice most requires perfect publicity, no earthly reason can be given. Nor can it be understood why, among all the provisions for licensing lunatic asylums, there should be a special exemption in favour of persons detaining only one alleged lunatic, at a time, even although such person may be elsewhere the proprietor of a licensed house. It may be remembered, that, in the case of Lady Lytton, her ladyship was taken, not to a licensed asylum, but to a private unlicensed house, kept by a mad-house proprietor. For the authorisation of the capture and detention of any person, nothing is required beyond the certificate of two medical men, who may be any common apothecaries—i. e., tradesmen dealing in drugs—and an order signed by any person who may be a relative, or more, if preferred, be a stranger vagabond, picked up in the street, for the price of a pint of beer. The medical men are required to set forth the facts upon which is based their opinion as to the victim's insanity, but they are expressly authorised to do so upon the mere information of any person whatsoever, and for giving false information upon such an important matter, no punishment whatever is provided. Every licensed house within certain limits is to be visited four times, and beyond these bounds, twice, in every year, by two of the fortunate commissioners, who are empowered, if they choose to take the trouble to report cases of ill-treatment, unjust detention, or the like, to the Home Secretary, who "may" direct the Attorney-General to prosecute the alleged offenders. We need not remind our readers that the provisions to this effect have been virtually a dead letter. The act provides no summary method whatever for the discharge of an alleged lunatic, however indisputable his sanity may be, if not certified by a couple of these commissioners upon one of their half-yearly trips with travelling and "other" expenses paid. Section 99 expressly abrogates the privilege of *habeas corpus* for the production of any victim before a judge, thereby depriving him of all chance of summary legal discharge from false imprisonment, and further, protects his captors and jailers from any legal action upon production of the order and certificate (signed by two apothecaries or medical men, whatever may be their status or character), and by the person, relative or otherwise, desiring his immurement! Section 105 provides that any defendant, standing upon this act and the powers therein contained, which he is authorised to give in evidence on a simple plea of "Not guilty," against any plaintiff, who may happen to be non-suited or to lose his cause, shall recover double costs. Section 108 enacts that any notice required by the Act shall be sufficiently served if sworn to have been put into the post, properly addressed; and the "interpretation clause," sec. 114, provides that "lunatic" shall mean every person being an idiot or of "unsound mind." Such is a brief outline of the most salient points of this precious Act, which has been demonstrated by facts to be as injurious and shameful in practice as it is disgraceful in construction.

A woman, Sarah Macdonald, was charged before Mr. D'Eyncourt, with obtaining 14s. 6d. under pretext of practising witchcraft. The prosecutrix is stated to be a ladylike person attired in mourning. She had heard, by report, that the prisoner was clever at laying the cards, and went to the prisoner for the relief of pains attributed to malignant influences. The prisoner thereupon burned certain powders, proved to consist of common salt, for which she charged her dupe sixpence each. The prosecutrix told the magistrate that of course we all know there is such a thing as witchcraft, a proposition which Mr. D'Eyncourt does not appear to have contravened, for reasons which may be easily imagined, although upon the examination of another witness, who deposed to similar practices on prisoner's part, the magistrate observed that he should not have supposed there were so many geese in Bethnal Green. At a second examination, the prosecutrix and her daughter avowed their belief that they had suffered much and long from the witch's spells, and that she had infested them with vermin, and racked them with pains. They agreed, however, that the witch had lost her power since she had been in confinement. On the other hand, some neighbours of the prisoner said they believed her to be a respectable person. She was sent to the House of Correction for twenty-one days.

A strange decision was delivered at Lambeth police-court on Saturday last, by Mr. Elliott. The landlord of the Horse and Groom, public-house, at Streatham, was summoned for having supplied beer on a Sunday forenoon, to passengers arriving at his house in pleasure vans. In answer to the charge, the landlord pleaded the well-known exemption allowed in the case of *bona fide* travellers, an exemption which has been ruled, in repeated instances by metropolitan magistrates, to apply to persons journeying for pleasure. Mr. Elliott, however, considered that "pleasure parties" did not come within the exemption. Now if there be any meaning in the exemption, Mr. Elliott's objection to the allowance of it in this instance, can scarcely have been that the individuals supplied with malt liquor travelled in parties instead of singly. And if beer is to be denied to such people upon any grounds whatever, it can only be upon that of desecration of the Sabbath, as to which there can be still less favour claimed by persons travelling upon business upon the Sunday. But Mr. Elliott qualified the denial of malt liquor to excursionists by announcing his opinion that persons travelling in public vehicles, such as omnibuses, were legally entitled to that refreshment which was illegal in the case of van-passengers! So that, according to Mr. Elliott, it is the vehicle and not the cause of the journey, or the association with a party, which constitutes the *bona fides* of a traveller! This is very strange law, and still stranger reasoning; but it will have the effect of depriving many a poor stranger and his family of the means of quenching their thirst or washing down their sandwiches, on a dusty suburban road in the heat of the day. The landlord, however, was not fined, so that he has no chance of having the question argued on an appeal.

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